MONDAY
June 23, 2025

BENGALURU
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RELEASE STALLED

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DGCA launches safety audit for aviation sector

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India trails in critical technology

The U.S. and China lead across critical sectors

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TEST EVENLY POISED

Bumrah's five gives India a six-run lead

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U.S. attacks Iran, strikes three nuclear sites

- Attacks crossed a 'big red line', says Iran Minister while asserting the country's right to self-defence
- No immediate signs of radioactive contamination following the strikes, says UN nuclear watchdog
- There will be 'either peace or tragedy for Iran', says Trump acting without congressional nod

Associated Press
DUBAI

Prompting fears of a wider regional conflict, the United States inserted itself into Israel's war against Iran early on Sunday by dropping 30,000-pound bombs on a uranium enrichment site buried under a mountain, a risky gambit that aimed at destroying the Islamic Republic's nuclear programme after months of failed diplomacy.

The U.S. also fired dozens of missiles, and President Donald Trump said that the combination of strikes "completely and fully obliterated" three nuclear sites. However, U.S. defence officials said an assessment of the damage was ongoing.

The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran confirmed that attacks took place on the Fordow and Natanz enrichment facilities as well as its Isfahan nuclear site, but it insisted that its nuclear programme will not be stopped. Both Iran and the UN nuclear watchdog said there were no immediate signs of radioactive contamination following the strikes.

U.S. Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth said the country does not "seek war" and that the operation would not be "open-ended", though Mr. Trump earlier warned there would be additional strikes if Tehran retaliated. "There will either be peace or there will be tragedy for Iran," said Mr. Trump, who acted without congressional authorisation. Vice-President J.D. Vance, however, said the strikes have given Tehran the possibility of returning to negotiate with Washington.

Hours later, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said the attacks have crossed a 'big red line' adding that the time for diplomacy had passed and that his country had the right to defend itself. Mr. Araghchi said he would be flying to Moscow to coordinate positions with its ally, Russia. "The warmongering and lawless administration in Washington is solely and fully responsible for the dangerous consequences and far-reaching implications of its act of aggression," he told presspersons in Turkiye.

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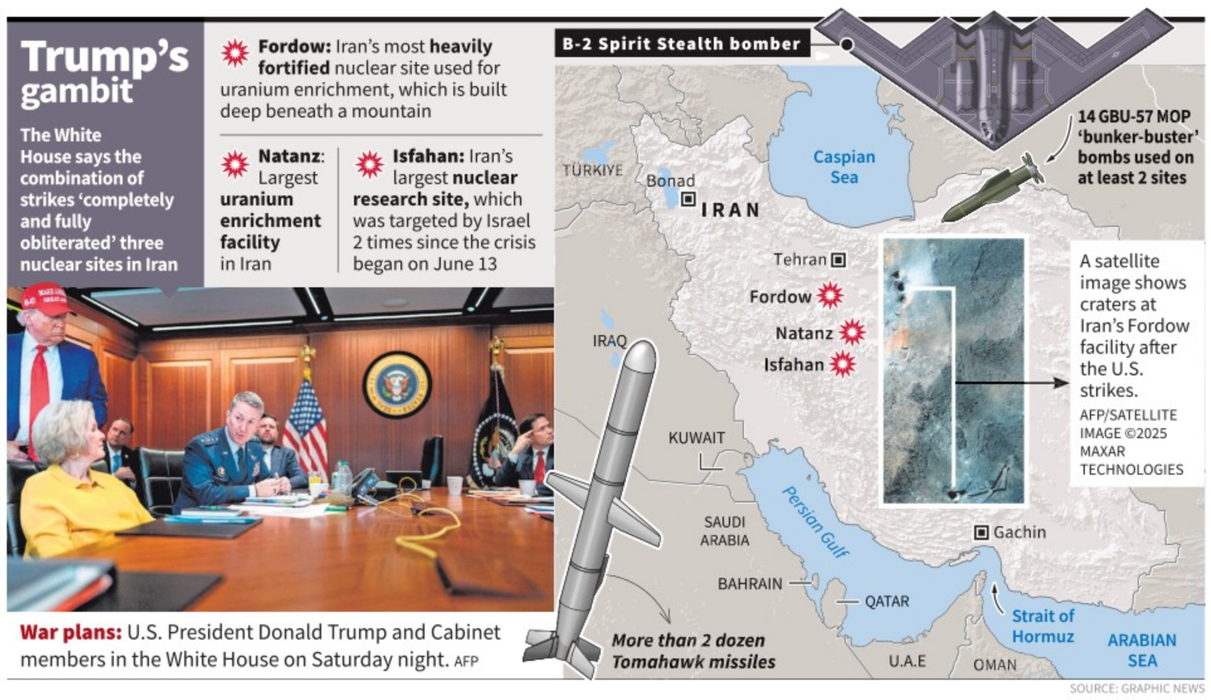
Trump's gambit
The White House says the combination of strikes 'completely and fully obliterated' three nuclear sites in Iran
Fordow: Iran's most heavily fortified nuclear site used for uranium enrichment, which is built deep beneath a mountain
Natanz: Largest uranium enrichment facility in Iran
Isfahan: Iran's largest nuclear research site, which was targeted by Israel 2 times since the crisis began on June 13
B-2 Spirit Stealth bomber
14 GBU-57 MOP 'bunker-buster' bombs used on at least 2 sites
TÜRKIYE
Bonad
IRAN
Caspian Sea
Tehran
Fordow
Natanz
Isfahan
IRAQ
KUWAIT
SAUDI ARABIA
Persian Gulf
BAHRAIN
QATAR
Gachin
Strait of Hormuz
ARABIAN SEA
U.A.E
OMAN
More than 2 dozen Tomahawk missiles
A satellite image shows craters at Iran's Fordow facility after the U.S. strikes.
AFP/SATELLITE IMAGE ©2025 MAXAR TECHNOLOGIES
SOURCE: GRAPHIC NEWS

War plans: U.S. President Donald Trump and Cabinet members in the White House on Saturday night. AFP

Iranian parliament votes to close Strait of Hormuz

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Iran's parliament, the Majlis, has reportedly approved the closure of the Strait of Hormuz in response to the attacks by the U.S. on Iranian nuclear facilities, the country's state-owned media *PressTV* reported on Sunday.

The Strait of Hormuz connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea, and is one of the world's most important oil trade routes.

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PM calls for 'immediate de-escalation' of conflict

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke with the President of Iran, Masoud Pezeshkian, and called for "immediate de-escalation" on Sunday, hours after the U.S. struck three prominent nuclear sites in Iran. The conversation between the two leaders is significant as it came ahead of an emergency meeting of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, where the U.S. attack on Iran will be the main subject of attention.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 13

NEARBY

LEDs to replace sodium-vapour lamps in city

BENGALURU
The yellow light of sodium-vapour lamps in street lights will soon be a thing of the past in the city. The project to replace all energy-guzzling sodium-vapour lamps with LED lights has finally taken off.
» Page 2

SC survey: One more extension announced

BENGALURU
Amid demand by some Dalit factions not to extend the survey of the SCs, the commission headed by retired judge H.N. Nagamohan Das has announced another extension. The deadline to end the survey, which was Sunday, is now June 30.
» PAGE 8

EDUCATIONPLUS
» PAGES 4, 5 & 7

NIA arrests two men for 'harbouring' terrorists behind Pahalgam attack

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

In a major breakthrough in the Pahalgam terror attack case, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested two men for allegedly harbouring the terrorists who carried out the heinous operation which took the life of 26 civilians.

The accused have been identified as Parvaiz Ahmad Jothar from Batkote, and Bashir Ahmad Jothar of Hill Park. Both Batkote and Hill Park are in Pahalgam.

They purportedly disclosed the identities of the three armed terrorists involved in the attack, and also confirmed that they were from Pakistan and affiliated to the proscribed terrorist outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). "Parvaiz and Bashir had knowingly harboured the three armed terrorists at a seasonal *dhok* [hut] at Hill Park before the attack, as per NIA investigations. The two men had provided food, shelter and logistical support to the terrorists, who had, on the fateful afternoon, selectively killed the tourists on the basis of their religious identity, making it one of the most gruesome terrorist attacks ever," the agency said.

The NIA has arrested the two accused under Section 19 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and further investigations are going on.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

The Chief of the Army Staff, General Upendra Dwivedi, in Kashmir on Sunday to review security situation. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Infrastructure deficiencies, low funds affecting organ transplants: report

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

The organ transplantation programme in India has been crippled by multiple issues, especially insufficient funds, shortage of specialised doctors, and procedural delays, a report released by the Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry dated June 19 revealed.

The report, which followed a high-level meeting of senior health officials to review the status of organ transplantation activities in government hospitals and identify the key challenges, pointed to infrastructure deficiencies, especially shortage of intensive care unit (ICU) beds and lack of financial support to patients who required life-long medication that was expensive.

The report dated June 19 followed a review of organ transplant activities. FILE PHOTO

Explaining the bottlenecks and other issues faced by state-owned institutions, the report said only 13,476 kidney transplants were performed, both in government and private hospitals, against the recommended one lakh cases last year. The capacity of government hospitals was not adequate to meet the target of organ transplants and creation of new centres were "definitely" required.

The report elaborated on the lack of facilities in government healthcare institutions, saying a significant number of government hospitals had reported the absence of dedicated infrastructure for organ retrieval and transplantation, including specialised transplant operation theatres (OTs) and dedicated transplant intensive care units (TICUs).

A critical issue was the shortage of ICU beds, which were essential for maintaining potential brain-stem dead donors. In many trauma centres, beds were unavailable for potential donors due to high patient volume.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Maoists kill 2 in Bijapur over suspicion of being informers

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

Two villagers were killed by Maoists in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh on Saturday night, the police said on Sunday.

The attack took place at Sendrobor and Yampur villages in the jurisdiction of the Pamed police station. The area close to the Chhattisgarh-Telangana boundary has a strong Maoist presence.

"The Maoists murdered the duo late in the night suspecting them to be informers," a police officer said.

With the latest incident, five villagers have been killed in Bijapur in less than a week. On June 17, three villagers were killed by Maoists in Bijapur, which has been the worst-affected Naxal district.

So far this year, 22 civilians have been allegedly killed by Maoists in the Bastar region, with 71 killed last year.

SHAH IN CHHATTISGARH
» PAGE 12

So far this year, 22 civilians have been allegedly killed by Maoists in the Bastar region. FILE PHOTO

KRS is just 5 ft shy of attaining the full level

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) built across the Cauvery is just about 5 ft away from attaining its full reservoir level (FRL) of 124.80 ft.

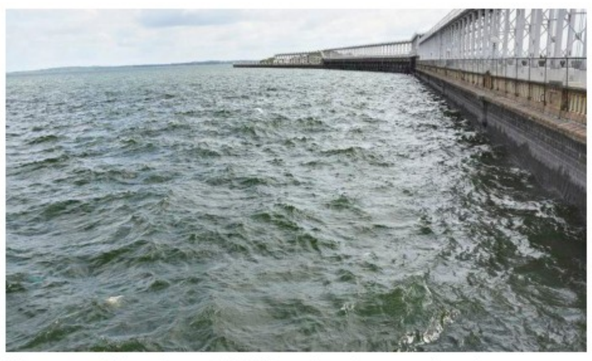
The reservoir level at 8 a.m. on Sunday was 119.40 ft and was expected to reach the 120-ft mark by Monday. The rate of inflow into the reservoir was 13,359 cusecs owing to moderate to heavy rains in the catchment area of the Cauvery in the upstream.

For comparison, the reservoir level on the same day last year was 87.60 ft, according to the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC).

Incidentally, the reservoir breached the 100-ft mark by the end of May, a rare occurrence which has happened only twice in the last 35 years, according to Irrigation Department officials.

Though Kodagu and the catchment area of Hemavati in Chikkamagaluru got a breather with rains abating during this week, the monsoon is expected to gain vigour in the days ahead which will augment the rate of inflow into the reservoir.

The live storage in the reservoir was 42.29 tmcft as against the gross storage capacity of 49.45 tmcft. The reservoir already holds 86 per cent of its gross storage capacity and the authorities are hoping for an early revival of the monsoon in which case KRS could reach the maximum level of 124.80 ft very soon. The reservoir reached its maximum level on July 24 in 2024.



The reservoir level was 119.40 ft on Sunday as against the maximum level of 124.80 ft. M.A. SRIRAM

Other key reservoirs

In the other major reservoirs in the Cauvery basin of the State, Hemavati has attained a level of 2,914.57 ft as against the full level of 2,922 ft.

The storage in the reservoir was 30.32 tmcft as against the gross storage capacity of 37.10 ft.

At Kabini, the water level was 2,277.2 ft as against the full reservoir level of 2,284 ft and the available storage was 15.76 tmc ft as against the gross capacity of 19.52 tmcft.

Similarly, the water leel at Harangi was 2,850.81 ft as against the full level of 2,869 ft and the available quantum of water was 6.10 tmcft as against the gross storage capacity of 8.50 tmcft in the reservoir.

The installed gross storage capacity of the four reservoirs is 114.57 tmcft as against which the cumulative storage as of Sunday was 94.47 tmcft, which is 81 per cent of the storage capacity, according to KSNDMC.

Spectacular success or promise less fulfilled... the first impression of India's GenNext

Jaiswal, Gill and Pant's hundreds were indicators of what the willow-wielders were capable of following the retirements of Kohli and Rohit; what followed was disappointing as the visitors lost seven for 41 and a glorious opportunity to bat the hosts out of the contest

GETTY IMAGES

R. Kaushik
LEEDS

It's only the start, but it's a start, nevertheless. There might appear two ways of looking at it, but irrespective of, the verdict will be unanimous - well begun.

Well begun, of course, is only half done. If they wondered about the wisdom of that pronunciation, India will now be convinced. They didn't just begin well, they did so brilliantly. With class and assurance and composure and flair, with swag and panache.

They realised that they were recently divorced from a glorious past, but this was their time to carve a stunning present and an extraordinary future. They could have baulked at the prospect of playing for the first time since the retirements of two of the stalwarts of the game; instead they chose to look at this as a grand chance to lay down the marker, to establish their own identity.

India's first Test since Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli bid adieu to the five-day game sparked wild interest. Tremendous scrutiny. Untold attention. How would a young line-up shape up? How would the first-time skipper, batting at an unfamiliar position, inspire his mates? How would they tackle the English examination, at potentially the most English of venues in terms of what to expect from this country from a bowling standpoint - Headingley at Leeds.

Depending on how forgiving one is, first/second day-first show was either a spectacular success or a promise less fulfilled. 471 all out doesn't always generate such reactions, you know.

Cold fact 1: Ben Stokes put India in at Headingley on the first morning of a five-Test series, a statement of intent but also a prudent (from the English perspective) choice because England are great chasers (hello, this is Test cricket!). They were willing to forgo first use of a terrific batting strip for whatever reasons floated their boat.

Cold fact 2: 471 all out on being asked to bat first, overseas, was an unqualified success, a result that would have been beyond the wildest imagination of even the most die-hard Indian fan, still to reconcile to life without Rohit and Kohli in the Test lane.

Cold fact 3: As impressive as 471 all out it, it was still underwhelming. Why? Because it was a huge climbdown from 430 for three. To lose seven for 41 anywhere, against anyone, at any stage of any contest, has to hurt. Even from 430 for three. Especially from 430 for three. It's the lowest total in Test history in an innings with at least three centurions. *Capisce*?

The three centurions are all still very young men at different stages of their careers. The oldest, at 27, also has the maximum Test appearances, answers to the name of Rishabh Pant, is a veritable force of nature and defies all conventions, all predictions, all adherence to well laid-out standards of norm.

The youngest, at 23, has made it a habit of scoring hundreds in his first Test in overseas territory. Yashasvi Jaiswal's 101 on Friday came on the back of 171 on debut against West Indies in Roseau in 2023, and 161 in Perth last November, in his first Test match in Australia.

The man sandwiched between the two vastly different left-hand batters is 25 - see the symmetry in ages there? - and has played more Tests than Jaiswal but less than Pant. He is also India's newest Test captain, skipper No. 37, the country's fifth youngest leader. He is Shubman Gill.

Elite group

This trio gate-crashed a fabulous club of two. Hitherto, only on two previous occasions had three Indians scored a century in the same innings in a SENA country - Sunil Gavaskar, K. Srikkanth and Mohinder Amarnath in Sydney (1986), and, more famously, Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar and Sourav Ganguly in 2002, at the same venue where the Jaiswal-Gill-Pant triumvirate put England to the sword.

The first was in his first Test in England, the second was in his first Test as captain, the third in his first Test as the vice-captain. Remarkable firsts, you have to acknowledge.

Between them, they accounted for 81.1% of India's first-innings tally. What a grand contribution indeed. Jaiswal now has five Test tons in 20 games, three of them in six matches against England. Gill's 147, the perfect score in snooker, is his highest in Tests and his maiden three-figure knock outside Asia.

Pant's 134, which muscled him past 3,000 runs, gave him more Test centuries (7) than any other Indian stumper. It also made him the first overseas wicketkeeper to smack three tons in England - he had a hundred in each of his two previous series in Old Blighty. What's there not to celebrate?

All other things being equal, these three will form the core of the Indian batting for at least the next half-dozen years. Potentially much more if they stay injury-free and retain form and hunger. They have the skills, the temperament, the ambition and hunger (as of now) and a certain commitment to the longest format that isn't necessarily a global phenomenon. Unless something goes drastically wrong, they will be at the vanguard of India's Test batting for a long, long time.

In that journey, they will have for support an intelligent, introverted 33-year-old who has led the country previously in all three formats, but somehow didn't pass muster with the decision-makers when they sat down to zero in on Rohit's successor.

K.L. Rahul played his first Test in December 2014 in Melbourne, made his maiden hundred the following week in Sydney. He has wowed and wooed but he has also disappointed and frustrated. He is too good a batter to average in the mid 30s, yet that's what the numbers say. And the numbers don't lie, do they?

Rahul played a nice little hand on Friday, 42 in an hour and 50 minutes during an opening salvo of 91 with Jaiswal. It was their 201-run association in the second innings in Perth in November that forced Rohit to split his successful combination with his fellow Mumbaikar at the top of the Test batting tree. Until that game which Rohit missed as he was on paternity leave, Jaiswal had opened exclusively with his captain in his first 14 outings.

The double-century stand between Jaiswal and Rahul compelled the skipper to bat in the middle-order for the first time in more than six years, which in some ways precipitated his retirement from the longer format because he had three fruitless innings at No. 6, then a further two more back as opener at the MCG before sitting himself out of the final Test at the SCG.

Rahul has shown himself to be flexible, adaptable and versatile - in December 2023, he batted at No. 6 for the first time in Tests in Centurion while also keeping wicket and still made a fantastic hundred in challenging conditions against a gun pace attack - though sometimes, those traits have been his worst enemy because he has been moved up and down the order. Now, hopefully, he will have a settled run back as an opener so that not only can he guide and mentor the much younger Jaiswal but also give his skipper the confidence to go about his business without fuss, knowing that the opening slots are in safe hands.

India would have expected more from the other two in the top six in Leeds, one on debut and the other on his 'second debut', if there is anything like that.

Sai Sudharsan forced his way into the Test setup on the back of a terrific run of scores in the IPL, sure - where he was Gill's opening partner at Gujarat Titans - but also owing to his promise, if not exceptional returns, in the first-class ecosystem.

He was strangled down the leg-side - unfortunate, but also a slight setback because he should have known the field was set for that kind of dismissal, given that England had two leg-slips for all four deliveries of his brief stay at the crease - but it will be silly to judge him on that.

The one on his 'second debut' is India's only Test triple centurion apart from Virender Sehwag. Karun Nair's 303 against England in Chennai in December 2016 is a distant, almost painful memory.

He was out of the Test XI three Tests and three months later, last featured in the Test squad in the summer of 2018 and seemed destined to not add to his six caps when he broke down seemingly impregnable doors with sheer bloody-mindedness and a desire to prove to himself that he still belonged.

Anxiety and a quick end

Like Sai Sudharsan, he too fell for a four-ball blob, sucked into an aerial drive in his anxiety to score his first Test runs in eight years and three months. To walk in on the back of a 209-run partnership always carries the risk of a cheap dismissal.

Watching from the sidelines for 50 overs and four hours can take a toll on even the most seasoned; if Karun felt the heat more than most because of the significance of the occasion, it's perfectly understandable.

Two smart catches on Saturday afternoon should have eased his nerves plenty. It's more than likely that he has already put his first-innings batting misadventure behind him.

Like his good mate Rahul - the two have played plenty of cricket together for more than two decades - Karun is also 33 and a good series in England will set him up for the immediate future.

In an otherwise young batting top whose average age is less than 24, these two 'veterans' loom as guiding lights. India's first innings in the new normal of Indian Test cricket could and should have been more fruitful, but it wasn't without several sterling moments. It's from these moments that the promise of a vibrant, bountiful tomorrow stems. Well begun, and all that...

THE GIST

- The trio of Jaiswal, Gill and Pant gate-crashed a fabulous club of two. Only on two previous occasions had three Indians scored a century in the same innings in a SENA country — Gavaskar, Srikkanth and Mohinder in Sydney (1986) and Dravid, Tendulkar and Ganguly in Leeds (2002)
- Between them, Jaiswal, Gill and Pant accounted for 81.1% of India's first-innings tally. The three will form the core of the Indian batting for at least the next half-dozen years
- India's first innings in the new normal of Indian Test cricket could and should have been more fruitful, but it wasn't without several sterling moments

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SVLs to be history in city as 100% LED project takes off

Despite 44% of Bengaluru's street lights already using LED bulbs, the city's monthly power bill remains ₹25 crore; replacing the remaining sodium-vapour lamps with LEDs is expected to reduce costs by at least 50%

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

The yellow light of sodium-vapour lamps (SVLs) in street lights will soon be a thing of the past in the city. The project to replace all energy-guzzling sodium-vapour lamps with LED lights has finally taken off.

After an earlier pan-city tender bagged by Shapoorji Pallonji failed to take off, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has opted to divide the project into multiple packages, and different companies have bagged the contracts.

"Of the eight zones, tenders have been finalised in seven and tender work is under way in the Mahadevapura zone, and that will also be finalised soon. Once these companies get work orders, they will get eight months' time to replace all sodium-vapour lamps with LED lights," said a senior engineer in charge of street lights in the civic body.

New lights: As many as 2.85 lakh sodium-vapour lamps will be replaced with LED bulbs as part of the project and it is expected to be completed within the next eight months. K. MURALI KUMAR

A BBMP survey showed there were 5.36 lakh street lights and over 45,000 poles without any lamps

Proposal in 2017

The proposal to replace all sodium-vapour lamps in street lights with LED lights was first made in 2017, and work began in 2018.

Although a pan-city contract failed to materialise, BBMP began replacing sodium-vapour lamps with LED lights on an ad hoc basis wherever funds were available. Many ward committees had also taken the initiative to install LED lights using funds allocated to their wards.

Lighting issues

Zone	Sodium vapour lamps	LED lights	Total street lights
East	40,620	37,167	77,787
West	28,139	27,502	55,641
South	55,703	24,001	79,704
Bommanahalli	48,126	32,458	80,584
R.R. Nagar	44,140	34,379	78,519
Yelahanka	24,369	32,200	56,569
Dasarahalli	16,297	13,779	30,076
Mahadevapura	28,212	48,666	76,878
Total	**2,85,606**	**2,50,152**	**5,36,758**

Prior to new tenders being called, BBMP took up a survey of all street lights across the city.

The survey showed that there were 5.36 lakh street lights and over 45,000 poles without any lamps.

Of the 5.36 lakh street lights, the survey has found that while 2.50 lakh already have LED bulbs, 2.85 lakh of them still have sodium-vapour lamps, which will be replaced now. The empty poles will also get LED lights.

Current bill

BBMP officials stated that the current electricity bill for street lights in the city amounts to a whopping ₹25 crore per month, despite 44% of the street lights already being equipped with LED bulbs.

Replacing the rest of the sodium-vapour lamps with LED lights is estimated to bring down this bill by at least 50%.

New contract

As per the terms of the new contract, BBMP will not invest any money to install new LED bulbs directly. Instead, the companies that have bagged the contract will invest the money and install LED bulbs.

Four companies that have now bagged four packages (multiple zones in each package) will be paid ₹2 crore per month for 84 months (seven years) if they show a saving of 50% on the electricity bill in their area.

The terms and conditions of the contract in the Mahadevapura zone are yet to be worked out.

BU to provide health and life insurance cover for students on Jnana Bharathi campus

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a unique move, Bangalore University (BU) has decided to provide life insurance and health insurance cover to all students studying on its Jnana Bharathi campus from the academic year 2025-26. A decision to this effect was taken in the recent syndicate meeting of the university.

There are a total of 54 departments related to various undergraduate, postgraduate, and Ph.D. programs, and more than 4,000 students, on the campus. Additionally, the syndicate has directed that all students of BU affiliated colleges should be registered for insurance under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Suraksha Yojana.

Why the initiative?

Most students studying at BU are from rural areas and belong to economically and socially weaker sections. Two major roads pass through the Jnana Bharathi campus: one from Mysuru Road towards Ullal and from Nagarbavi towards Kengeri. These roads are consistently congested with traffic, and accidents are frequent; as a result, students are often injured in these incidents. A postgraduate student died in a bus accident two years ago. When any such accident occurs, compensation is provided from the university's funds, which the insurance will now cover.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, M.S. Jayakara, Vice-Chancellor of the university, said, "Most of our students are from economically weaker families. Till now, compensation has been provided from the university's accumulated fund, which has become a burden. In this context, it has been decided to provide insurance cover to all students."

The university has decided to include the insurance premium amount with the annual fees paid by students. "I have instructed the finance officers to discuss and report on the insurance amount to be fixed for students. The insurance scheme will be implemented without burdening the students by getting assistance from the State government too," said Dr. Jayakara.

Students welcome move

Students have welcomed the initiative, but requested that the insurance premium should not be a burden on them. "Our university's decision to provide insurance cover for the safety of students is commendable. However, students should not be burdened with the insurance premium. It would be better if the university itself pays most of the premium amount, or even makes it free of cost," said Sinchana, a postgraduate student.

Ex gratia to family of deceased student

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The syndicate has approved an ex gratia payment of ₹3 lakh under the Vice-Chancellor's Discretionary Student Fund, , as a humanitarian gesture, to the family of Pavana H.N..

Pavana was a 2nd-year postgraduate student of the Kannada Studies Centre.

She allegedly died by suicide in the women's hostel at Jnana Bharathi campus on February 3.

(If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: KIRAN 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help)

Woman kept under digital arrest for three days loses ₹29.2 lakh

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Posing as Mumbai Crime Branch officials, cyber crooks kept a woman under digital arrest for three days and stole ₹29.2 lakh from her bank accounts on the pretext of an inquiry.

Based on a complaint by the victim, the East Division cyber crime police registered an FIR against unknown persons charging them under the IT Act and also under Section 318(4) (cheating that involves inducing someone to deliver property or a valuable security through deception) of the BNS recently.

The victim said she received a phone call from persons posing as Mumbai Crime Branch officials

The victim said that she received an interactive voice response (IVR) call on her phone on June 16.

The caller introduced himself as an officer with the Mumbai Crime Branch and accused her of having a parcel in her name which contained a laptop, passports, ATM cards, and MDMA.

Accusing her of smuggling drugs and money laundering, the caller said that a case had been registered and informed her that she was under digital arrest.

The accused asked her to cooperate in the investigation and threatened to arrest her and asked her to share her personal and bank account details.

The victim shared all details and allowed them to transfer money for three days.

The accused told her that the money would be returned after completion of the investigation.

The scam came to light when the accused vanished and did not return the money as promised.

Police advice

The police have advised people not to fall prey to such scams. There is no provision in the police department for digital arrest and those who receive such calls should not entertain them and inform the control room, a senior police officer said.

'Science movements must be in alliance with larger social change movements'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Science and technology movements like free software movements must be in alliance with the larger social change movements in order to really bring about true social change, said journalist and author Prabir Purkayastha.

He was speaking at a discussion on his book *Knowledge as Commons-Towards Inclusive Science and Technology* in Bengaluru on Sunday.

Mr. Purkayastha, who is also the founder of *NewsClick*, said that a lot of things about science and technology which we learn from textbook, is not how real science and technology advances take place. "A lot of things about science and technology which we learn from the textbook is not how real science and technology advances take place, and I think it is important for people in this audience to really understand that what we say the way science and technology develops in a normative sense... it is true but there are a lot of edge cases where real development takes place," he said.

He said that a small advancement in technology can lead to major advances in science and the major advances in science can have very little technological implications. "Major advances in physics, science have no major impact on technology and major technological advances have very little scientific advances, but it is also true small science developments have enormous impact on technology and small technology developments have enormous impact on science," he said.

Journalist and author Prabir Purkayastha during a discussion on his book in Bengaluru on Sunday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

> A lot of things about science and technology which we learn from textbook, is not how real science and technology advances take place
>
> **PRABIR PURKAYASTHA**
> Journalist and author

"So, the relationship between the two is not one-to-one but it is also true that science is a necessary condition for development of technology just as much technology is a necessary condition for developing science, because any major scientific advance today needs huge investment in technology," he added.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 10/2025/SBC Dated: 13.06.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders through IREPS only for supply of following items:

Tender No.	Description in Brief
L8255797	3-Phase Asynchronous Traction Motor Type 6FRA-6068 for WAG9HC Electric Loco with Pinion & without active speed sensor. **(Qty: 6 Nos.)**

Last date for Submission/Tender Due on: **Upto 10:30 Hrs. on 07.07.2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
PUB/196/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Senior Divisional Materials Manager, Bengaluru**
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby notified that, my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule Property from its owners namely, **(i)Smt.V.Kuppamma**, D/o late.P.Venkatesh, residing at No.585, 21st Main, 4th 'T' Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore – 560 041 and **(ii)Smt.V.Sulochana**, D/o late.P.Venkatesh, residing No.538, 20th Main, 4th 'T' Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore – 560 041.
Apart from the said owners, if any other person/s have any manner of right, title, interest or claim or demand over the Schedule property or any part thereof by way of sale, lease, mortgage, gift, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, pre-emption or otherwise howsoever, they are hereby requested to file their objection/s (along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are relying), with the undersigned within **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.
SCHEDULE
All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Municipal No.18 (Old No.14), PID No.48-82-18, New E-PID No.4548882513, measuring East to West 45 ft. and North to South on the Eastern Side 73 ft. and on the Western Side 66 ft., in all measuring 3127.5 Sq.ft, together with a building thereon, comprising of ground plus two upper floors, situated at 2nd Cross, Lalbagh Main Road, S.G.Narayan Layout, Bangalore – 560027, within the administrative jurisdiction of BBMP Ward No.118 (Sudhamanagar Ward), and bounded on:
East by : Road,
West by : Site/Property No.15,
North by : Road,
South by : Property belonging to M/s.N.Muniswami & Sons.
Sd/- **S.F. GOUTAM CHAND**, Advocate,
GOUTAM ASSOCIATES,
No.60, 2nd Floor, Old Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bengaluru - 560004

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
Ministry of Finance, Department of Fiancial Services
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, BANGALORE (DRT-2)
4th Floor, Telephone House Builiding Rajbhavan Road Bengaluru - 560001
Form No. 14 (See Regulation 33(2))
DEMAND NOTICE
Notice under Sections 25 to 28 of the Recovery of Debts & Bankruptcy Act, 1993 and Rule 2 of Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961.
RC No. 253/2024 IN OA No. 152/2021
Karnataka Bank Limited V/s M/s. Leo Gourmet Pvt Ltd., and Others
To: (CH) Karnataka Bank Limited, Koramangala Branch, No. 653, 17th Main, III Block, Bengaluru - 560 034, Karnataka **... Certificate Holder**
Vs
(CD 1) M/s. Leo Gourmet Pvt Ltd., A Company incroporated under the Companies Act., No. 22, Sailagiri Top Floor, Behind LG Shop, Koramangala Ring Road, Bengaluru - 560 047.
(CD 2) Sri Leo Periera, Director, S/o. Sri Reathas, No. 131, 3rd Cross, Mallappa Layout, Babusapalya, Kalyana Nagar, Bengaluru - 560 043.
Also at : Sri Leo Periera Director, S/o. Sri Reathas, No. 29, Housing Colony, Konam, Nagerkoil, Tamilnadu - 620 004
(CD 3) Smt. Shirley Leo Periera W/o. Sri Leo Periera, No. 131, 3rd Cross, Mallappa Layout, Babusapalya, Kalyana Nagar, Bengaluru - 560 043.
Also at : Smt. Shirley Leo Periera W/o. Sri Leo Periera, No. 29, Housing Colony, Konam, Nagerkoil, Tamilnadu - 620 004
(CD 4) Sri Abdul Rafeeq Kunnan Kavil S/o. Hassan Kummali Kunnankavi, Kummali Kunnankavil House, Chelambra, Mallappuram, Chelambra, Kerala- 673 634. **... Certificate Debtors**
This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, BANGALORE (DRT-2) in **OA /152/2021** an amount of **Rs.8180647.17** (Rupees Eighty One Lakhs Eighty Thousands Six Hundred Forty Seven and Paise Seventeen Only) along with pedentellite and future interest @ 14.15% compound Interest Yearly w.e.f. 24.12.2020 till realization and costs of Rs.**84010/-** (Rupees Eighty Four Thousands Ten Only) has become due against you Jointly and severally, plus penal interest @2% p.a. is also applicable/payable. 2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 and Rules there under. 3.You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing. 4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, for further proceedings. 5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will be liable to pay: (a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate/ execution proceedings. (b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processess and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.
Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on **24.04.2024**
Sd/- Recovery Officer
Debts Recovery Tribunal , Bangalore (DRT-2)
Note :Mortgage property related to the loan has already been sold under SARFAESI proceedings, this demand notice pertains only to the remaining outstanding balance along with interest and costs.
Note: Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961 read with Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 which is reproduced below: "Rule 16 (1) Where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debt Recovery Officer, nor shall any Civil Court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money. (2) Where an attachment has been made under this Schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment".3) You are also liable to disclose your assets both movable and immovable to this Tribunal along with the Income Tax Returns of last 5 years.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Our client intends to purchase the immovable Property which is more fully described in the schedule here in below for valuable consideration from its original owner **H P Rekha,** that if any person has any right title or right to claim over the schedule property they may come forward with the original documents and provide the manner of right, title in writing with the under sign, within **15 days** from today, on failure of any such objection/claim being received our client shall proceed with intended sale transaction and shall be deemed that no one has any right to claim over the schedule property right that may exist is waived off.
SCHEDULE
All that piece and parcel of the house Property bearing No.51, Katha No. 450, Old Property No.28, New Property No.137, situated at Byrathi Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk (then South) Bangalore, now comes under the limits of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, bearing new Municipal No.51, Khatha No.450/51, Byrathi, Byrathi Village, Hoodi, Ward No. 54, Bengaluru, Measuring East to West : 30Feet, North to South : 40 Feet, in all measuring 1200 Sq. Ft., together with ACC sheet house measuring 1200 Sq. Ft. with all the appurtenance whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface.
GP Rao and Associates
#76, Murthy Building, 3rd Floor,
D.V.G Road, Nettakallappa Circle,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore - 560004
Tel-26621124 / 9343323453
Date : 22 -06-2025 **Place :** Bangalore.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to notify for the general information of the public that my Client **Smt.K.N.Sudha @ Sudha Kanathur Nagaraj W/o H R Shekar,** Aged about 65 Years, Residing at No.38, SREE RANGA, 3rd Cross, K C A Layout, Kotthanuru Hari Nagar Main Road. J.P.Nagar 8th Phase, Anjanapura, Bangalore South, Bangalore 560 062 AADHAAR No.3741 7313 0152 has lost the Original Rectification Deed executed by the Bangalore Development Authority represented by its Deputy Secretary in favour of **Smt.K.N.Sudha @ Smt.Sudha Kanathur Nagaraj W/o H R Shekar,** in respect of **Site No.16, Situated at Jnanabharathi (Nagadevanahalli) 3rd Block,** Measuring East to West 12.20 Meters and North to South 9.15 Meters, vide registered as document **No.6698/2002-03, Book-I, Volume No.626, at Pages 138-139, dated 07-09-2002,** registered in the office of the Additional District Registrar, Bangalore Near Zerox Shop I lost my bag, for which she has lodged a missing Complaint with the Bangalore City Police as Lost Report No.1661326/2025 dated 20-06-2025.
Any person or Group of Persons or institutions having found the lost document kindly is return to below address with appropriate award. If anybody Right Title, interest Charge, Lien whatsoever over the schedule property may lodge his/her and their/its claim to the under signed with documentary proof within period of 07 days from the date of this publication failing which it will be presumed that here are no objections /Claims, disputes In respect of the schedule property.
Shivanand Biradar, Advocate
No.417, 3rd Main, 60 Feet Road,
Near State Bank of India,
Rajarajeshwari Layout, Nagadevanahalli,
Bangalore 560056.
Contact. No. 9632396606.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - I, BENGALURU
No:4, Second Floor, LIC Jeevan Mangal Building,
Residency Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560025
Form No. 14 (See Regulation 33(2))
DEMAND NOTICE
Notice under Sections 25 to 28 of the Recovery of Debts Due To Banks and Financial Instituions Act, 1993 and Rule 2 of Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961.
RC 05/2021 in OA 498/ 2017
CANARA BANK Vs GANGULAMMA AND OTHERS
(CH 1) **Canara Bank,** Dibburahalli Branch, Dibburahalli Branch - 562 105, Shidlaghatta Taluk, Chikkaballapur District. **.... Certificate Holders**
To
1. Smt. Gangulamma W/o. Sri Venkataravana, Paddarajapalli Village, Cheluru Hobli, Bagepalli Taluk, Chikkaballapura Distirct.
2. Sri Venkataswamy, S/o. Venkatarayappa, (Died on 23.07.2009), Paddarajapalli Village, Cheluru Hobli, Bagepalli Taluk, Chikkaballapura Distirct. Legal Heirs of Sri Venkataswamy
3. Smt. Seethamma W/o. Late Venkataswamy, Ramachandrapura Village, Cheluru Hobli, (Post) Bagepalli Taluk, Chikkaballapura Distirct.
4. Sri R. V. Venkatasubbanna, S/o. Late Venkataswamy, Ramachandrapura Village, Cheluru Hobli, (Post) Bagepalli Taluk, Chikkaballapura Distirct.
... Certificate Debtors
This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, BENGALURU (DRT 1) in **OA/498/2017** an amount of **Rs.13,33,846/-** (Rupees Thirtyteen Lakh Thirty Three Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty Six Only) along with pendentellite and future interest and costs till realization. 2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 and Rules there under.3.You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing. **4**.You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, for further proceedings. **5**. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will be liable to pay:(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate/ execution proceedings. (b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processess and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.
Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on **19.01.2021**
Sd/- (Rajashekharan R), Recovery Officer- I
Debts Recovery Tribunal -I, Bengaluru
Email:rajasekharan.r@nic.in

Fighting antimicrobial resistance with insect-based livestock feed

Studies show that the use of insect-based feed can be more cost-effective because it provides better digestible proteins than fish- or soy-based feeds. It is also attractive because of its lower cost and the ease with which it can be made a sustainable activity. In other words, such feed has a better benefit-to-cost ratio in terms of production cost

Irfan Shakeer
Iswarya Lakshmi

Traditional livestock production systems have severe environmental consequences, including high greenhouse gas emissions, extensive land and water use, and risk of fostering antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Together with the steadily rising demand for nutrition, global and regional food systems have been exploring alternative ways to sustainably maintain their supply chains. Insect-based feed has emerged as one promising candidate.

The Indian Council of Agriculture (ICAR) and its affiliated centres have already been strengthening the adoption of insect-based feeds in the country. In March 2023, the ICAR-Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (CIBA) signed an MoU with Ultra Nutri India, Pvt. Ltd. to explore the possibility of using insect-based feed in aquaculture. The aim was to use black soldier fly (*Hermetia illucens*) larvae as an ingredient in aqua-feed to improve growth and immunity.

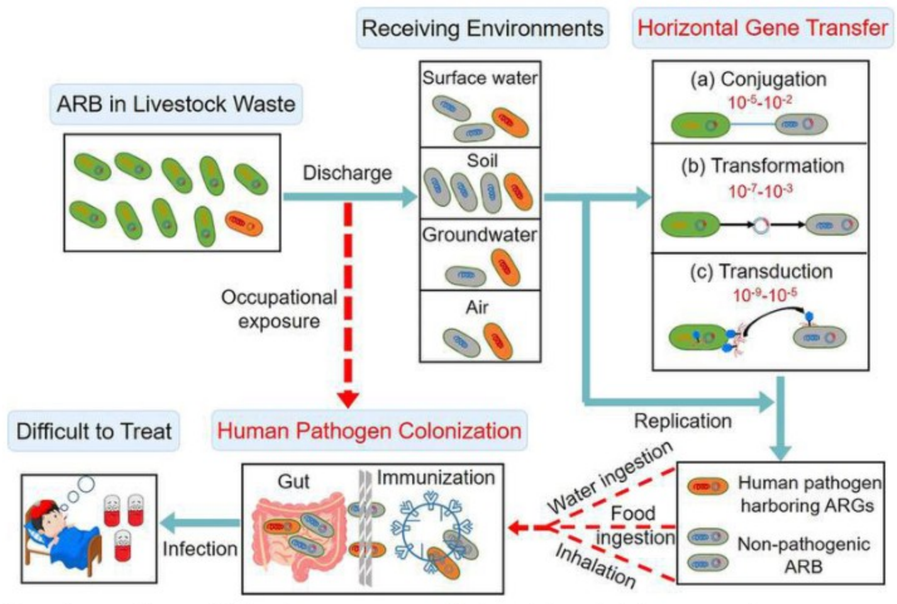
In June 2024, CIBA and Loopworm, a Bengaluru-based manufacturer of insect-based proteins and fats, inked another MoU to evaluate the use of insect-based feed products in shrimp and Asian seabass. In January 2025, the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute confirmed a formal MoU with Coimbatore-based Bhairav Renderers.

AMR and livestock production

Animal husbandry accounts for more than half of all antibiotic use around the world and is expected to increase to 200,000 tonnes by 2030, up 53% from 2013. Over the last 70 years, antimicrobial compounds have been becoming embedded in livestock feed. They are used to treat diseases as well as to boost growth, in turn raising productivity.

The excessive or inappropriate use of antibiotics in this regard can lead to AMR, which endangers public health. Traces of antibiotics left behind in the intestinal environments of livestock impose selective pressure for bacteria in the gut to acquire and maintain antibiotic resistance genes. These genes replicate when they are expelled into the surrounding environment, such as soil or water, increasing the possibility of human exposure, especially for those who work in agriculture.

It has been projected that the number of deaths worldwide from antibiotic-resistant infections will increase from 700,000 a year in 2014 to 10 million by 2050.The increasing demand for proteins of animal origin has in turn increased the costs of production and has encouraged farming practices to intensify. Ultimately, farmers are forced to use non-essential antibiotics to boost growth. The use of such antibiotics remains mostly unregulated in many countries, especially in LMICs.



Bacteria containing antibiotic resistance genes are discharged through drainage, treated wastewater, and solid waste from livestock farms into various receiving environments. NPJ CLEAN WATER 3, 4 (2020)

Animal husbandry accounts for more than half of all antibiotic use around the world and is expected to increase to 200,000 tonnes by 2030, up 53% from 2013. TIM BRUNAUER/GIZ (CC BY-SA)

The type and frequency of antibiotic-based animal feed consumption differs across continents and depends highly on socioeconomic conditions, regional demand and production, farming systems, and the national legislative framework. Some common antibiotics in use as feedstock in LMICs are chloramphenicol, tylosin, and TCN (a powdered mixture of oxytetracycline, chloramphenicol, and neomycin); developed countries have banned their use. In humans, over-exposure to these drugs can eventually increase the risk of kidney disease, cancers, and aplastic anaemia.

These realities prompted researchers to explore the use of insect-based feed to keep AMR at bay. As of today, 40 countries have accepted and issued regulations to use insect-based feed for animals. Examples of such insects include black soldier flies, house flies (*Musca domestica*), compost worm (*Perionyx excavatus*), grasshoppers (*Locusts*), small mealworms (*Alphitobius*), house crickets (*Acheta localus*), tropical crickets (*Gryllodes sigillatus*), and Jamaican field crickets (*Gryllus assimilis*).

Pros of insect-based livestock feed

Insects are nutritious and are healthy additions to human and animal diet. They are good sources of fats, proteins, fibres, and micronutrients like zinc, calcium, and iron. In their natural habitat, both aquatic and terrestrial animals eat insects.

Insect-based feed has the potential to become a climate-smart alternative to conventional feed because of its ability to shrink the environmental footprint of livestock farming

Rearing insects emits less greenhouse gases than rearing other sources of animal protein.

In most cases, insects are raised on organic waste because they can quickly transform low-grade waste into high-grade crude proteins, fats, and energy. For example, to generate the same quantity of proteins, crickets consume 12-times less feed than cattle. Rearing insects also requires fewer resources, especially land and water, compared to other livestock production enterprises.

Insect-based livestock feed is also an attractive option because of its lower overall cost and the ease with which producing it can be made a sustainable activity. In other words, such feed has a better benefit-to-cost ratio in terms of production cost.

In fact, some studies have shown that the use of insect-based feed can be even more cost-effective because it provides better digestible proteins than fishmeal- or soybean-based feeds. For example, per one estimate, one kilogram of fish meal can be replaced with 0.76 g of crickets (75% crude proteins), 0.81 g of termites or silkworms (70%), 0.85 g of black soldier flies (66%), 0.91 g of locusts or yellow mealworms (60%), and 950 g of mopane worms (56%). Similarly, one kilogram of soybean meal (49% crude proteins) can be replaced with 0.74 g, 0.79 g, 0.83 g, 0.89 g, and 930 g of the same insect species, respectively.

The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation has estimated that food production will have to be increased by 70% by 2050 to meet the world's demand. Unregulated use of non-essential antibiotics increases the risk of antibiotic-resistant genes in livestock farms.

Research has outlined the potential for insect-based feed to become a climate-smart alternative to conventional feed because of its ability to shrink the environmental footprint of livestock farming. At the macroscopic level, the ICAR is still streamlining research and collaboration on insect-based feeds; all the same, efforts should be made at the system's periphery to raise awareness.

(Irfan Shakeer is an epidemiologist at Clarivate India. Iswarya Lakshmi is senior research associate, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), Bengaluru. irfan.shakeer@gmail.com, ishwarya.lakshmi@atree.org.)

THE GIST

Traditional livestock production systems have severe environmental consequence. Global food systems have been exploring ways to sustainably maintain supply chains. Insect-based feed has emerged as one promising candidate

Traces of antibiotics in the livestock intestines impose selective pressure on bacteria to acquire antibiotic resistance genes. These genes increase the possibility of human exposure when expelled

Insects are nutritious and are healthy additions to human and animal diets. They are good sources of fats, proteins, fibres, and micronutrients like zinc, calcium, and iron. Both aquatic and terrestrial animals eat insects. Also, rearing insects emits fewer greenhouse gases

BIG SHOT

A drone view shows a rural cemetery surrounded by a soy field in the Amazon, in Brazil's Para state, on October 8, 2024. The Amazon Soy Moratorium protects old-growth rainforests but excludes other kinds of vegetation, called secondary forests. Farmers have been razing such forests to plant soy without violating the moratorium. REUTERS

WHAT IS IT?

Blowout: when the lid flies off

Vasudevan Mukunth

A blowout is a type of accident that happens at a natural-gas or oil well when the underground pressure pushing gas upward suddenly overpowers the equipment meant to contain it.

In the normal course, workers drill down to reach gas trapped under rock. They pump a thick substance called drilling mud down and use powerful valves called blowout preventers to hold the high pressure back. But if the pressure inside the well rises faster than the mud and valves can resist — e.g. because the valve is faulty or if the weight of the mud required has been underestimated — the gas can force its way up the bore.

On the way, the gas becomes mixed with drilling fluid, sand, and sometimes even oil and shoots out at the surface in an uncontrolled jet. Because natural gas is flammable, a spark can ignite it to produce a towering column of fire. This is a blowout. It endangers workers, can cause explosions, and pollute the air.

A fire burns at the Baghjan oil field in Assam's Tinsukia district in 2021, following a blowout. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Blowouts are also very expensive to stop and often demand teams of specially skilled workers working nonstop for days or even weeks to cap. Last week, the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, Ltd. (ONGC) had mobilised well-control experts from the U.S. to India after a well in Sivasagar district in Assam suffered a blowout on June 12. Thus far more than 1,500 people living in the surrounding areas have been evacuated. On June 21 the ONGC said the flow had been brought under control.

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Delay in completing transmission lines stalls electrification progress

According to officials, South Western Railway could save up to ₹4.36 crore every month by switching eight pairs of trains on Bengaluru-Mysuru-Mangaluru section from diesel to electric traction

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Delay in completing critical transmission lines is hampering Indian Railways' electrification drive on the vital Bengaluru-Mysuru-Mangaluru route, raising concerns about the full utilisation of the newly built railway assets.

Despite Railways successfully finishing its Honnavalli Traction Sub-station (TSS) in November 2023, it along with the other three sub-stations at Aalur, Shravanabelagola, and Sakleshpur cannot yet be energised.

According to sources, connections from the State electricity board's transmission network remain incomplete, while capacity upgrades at Tolahunse, Ramagiri, and Dodbele sub-stations also await attention from Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd. (KPTCL)

Railways is pushing to achieve 100% electrification in South Western Railway zone. FILE PHOTO

Officials said that a key part of this puzzle is the pending 110 kV, a 5-km transmission link from KPTCL's Belagumba grid sub-station through Tiptur and Arsikere taluks. Of the 25 tower foundations required for this stretch, only 12 have been built so far, over a year after KPTCL awarded the work in January 2023.

Officials say severe right-of-way (ROW) hurdles and ongoing disputes with local farmers demanding higher compensation have stalled progress.

Explaining the situation, a senior South Western Railway (SWR) official said: "We are fully ready with our traction sub-station at Honnavalli, but we cannot proceed with energising it until KPTCL completes its section. The delay is mostly owing to ROW and land compensation issues, which require urgent intervention."

Railways is pushing to achieve 100% electrification under the SWR zone, part of the Viksit Bharat vision.

"Without the last-mile transmission links in place, the electrification of the Bengaluru-Hubballi section cannot deliver its expected environmental and operational benefits," the official added.

According to officials, SWR could save up to ₹4.36 crore every month by switching eight pairs of trains on this section from diesel to electric traction.

The official said: "These trains currently consume approximately 7.64 lakh litres of diesel per month. Electrification will eliminate this usage and significantly cut fuel expenses."

The Hindu reached out to KPTCL, but there was no response.

Man who robbed motorists arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Sudduguntepalya police, with the help of their Ashoknagar counterparts, tracked down a 29-year-old habitual offender who was robbing motorists with fake accidents in and around the city on Saturday.

The accused, Zamail Khan, a resident of Rajendranagar in Mysuru, allegedly used to move around on a scooter with a fake number plate. The accused would allegedly crash the scooter and threaten and rob the other motorists, said the police.

Using this modus operandi, the accused robbed a 78-year-old retired government servant on M.G. Road on July 2.

Based on a complaint, the police shared the details of the accused based on CCTV camera footage, following which the Sudduguntepalya police on Saturday tracked down the accused and arrested him.

The accused is involved in over 24 cases in and around the city.

Toilets for disabled in city not so accessible

Sagnik Maitra
Shruti Tewari
BENGALURU

"I have to carry around a 20 kg portable commode every time I go out, even if it is for 3-4 hours," said M. Rose, a woman in her forties who suffers ambulant disability. As the city continues to grow with its burgeoning population, disabled persons here struggle to find designated disabled washrooms with necessary amenities in most public spaces.

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, (RWPDA) requires all public buildings and public toilets to be accessible for persons with disabilities. However, according to a claim by the 2024 report by R.V. University's Centre for Disability Justice (CDJI) and Inclusion and Centre for Gender Studies (CGS), the city has only 360 public toilets – greatly inadequate for a population exceeding 1.4 crore.

The study examined 65 public toilets, out of which only 14 had specific stalls for persons with disabilities.

> We have protested; we have given notices. When we give those letters to government officials, no proper action is taken. We have given it to the Deputy Commissioner, too. They will give us dates for the next meeting, and by then, the DC would have changed
>
> **VENKATESH M.,**
> Secretary of Karnataka State Disabled and Caregivers' Federation

Using disabled washrooms requires a frustrating series of inquiries in public spaces of Bengaluru. For instance, in places like Cubbon Park and Lalbagh metro stations, Shivajinagar and Shantinagar bus stations, disabled toilets have to be unlocked by the authorities, according to a reality check conducted by *The Hindu*.

Persons with disabilities reported that finding the right authorities is a task in itself.

Yashwant Chavan, public relations officer of BMRCL, however, claimed that every metro station has disabled toilets, which are properly accessible.

Even Cubbon Park doesn't provide toilet facilities designed for people with disabilities. However, Jagadeesh M., joint director, Parks and Gardens, Horticulture Department, said that the facilities in the park are disabled friendly. "We are also trying to improve the conditions of these toilets," he said.

Persons with disabilities also highlighted that while certain places claim to be disabled friendly, there are often a lack of basic features such as bars, accessible toilets, and wider turning spaces for wheelchairs, as well as doors that open outward.

S. Navya, who has ambulant disability, shed light on the complications involved while receiving aid. "It is scary when you have to depend on someone else to help sit on toilets, or be pushed on a wheelchair ramp because you need to entrust someone fully."

Venkatesh M., secretary of Karnataka State Disabled and Caregivers' Federation, lamented: "We have protested; we have given notices. When we give those letters to government officials, no proper action is taken. We have given it to the Deputy Commissioner, too. They [government officials] will give us dates for the next meeting, and by then, the DC would have changed."

Recently, there has been some progress in providing accessibility in this regard, according to S. Babu, Deputy Director of The Association of People with Disabilities.

App for accessibility

"In 2023, a study was conducted to understand the accessible facilities available for persons with disability. This study prompted us to go ahead and launch an app called 'Yes2Access'. All public places are being connected to accessibility through the app," he said.

"We are working with the Commissioner of Persons with Disability and the Directorate of Disability Welfare. Almost 7,000 staff have been involved in this process. No State in India has done this amount of value of accessibility," he added.

Low numbers, poor maintenance of public toilets leave citizens worried

Deeksha M.L.
Eman Syed
BENGALURU

Not only are the number of public toilets in the city – over 360 – woefully inadequate for a place as large as Bengaluru, but they are also ill-maintained, rendering many of them unusable, a reality check by *The Hindu* revealed.

In Cubbon Park, frequented by hundreds of people daily, visitors report a foul smell at the entrance of the toilet blocks, and the facilities are not being cleaned. Despite the facilities being pay-to-use, many find them unusable.

At Kempegowda Bus Station (Majestic), one of Bengaluru's busiest transport hubs, conditions are reported to be especially bad during the rains. "They're smelly and unsafe," says Manchamma, a regular commuter.

Safina Plaza, one of the city's oldest shopping centres, provides free washroom access. "Washrooms are a necessity and the organisation provides them for free," said a representative, noting their focus on basic infrastructure and customer convenience.

Across Bengaluru, clean and safe public toilets continue to be a missing link in civic infrastructure. FILE PHOTO

In contrast, the BDA complex at HSR Layout Sector VI paints a dire picture. The women's restrooms are in a state of neglect – missing locks, broken windows, no cleaning, and damaged amenities. "We don't use the restrooms here. We walk to the BBMP office nearby," admitted a woman working at the complex. Technicians at the complex confirmed that there were frequent water supply issues.

Ramya, a resident of HSR Layout, said: "I end up using the mall washrooms instead – it's just not feasible otherwise."

Another resident, Vinita from Agara, added: "I had no choice but to use the government washroom when I was with my child. It was disturbing and unfit for use."

The BDA complex in Koramangala offers five washrooms. "They are safe, but not cleaned regularly," says Savitha, a shopkeeper in the complex.

Across the city, clean and safe public toilets remain a missing link in civic infrastructure. Citizens, especially women, are left to navigate between unhygienic options or none at all.

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, JUN. 23	
RISE 05:55	SET 18:49
RISE 03:26	SET 16:46
TUESDAY, JUN. 24	
RISE 05:56	SET 18:49
RISE 04:24	SET 17:53
WEDNESDAY, JUN. 25	
RISE 05:56	SET 18:49
RISE 05:28	SET 18:58

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	24
Mysuru	30	20
Bengaluru	29	21

Bengaluru Today
31°C The weather will be dry. Day will be slight warm. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm. Mosty dry weather to prevail.

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THE HINDU
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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

India's coffee exports in 2023-24, as per government data

1.28 In $ billion. The country's coffee exports have increased by about 125% to $1.8 billion over the last 11 years, largely due to a series of measures taken by the Coffee Board of India, according to central government data. Europe remains the top destination. PTI

Number of international travellers to Europe last year

747 In million persons. Europe has been called the world's museum, but its record number of visitors have raised concerns about overtourism. Last year, 747 million international travellers visited, outnumbering any other region in the world, as per UN's World Tourism Barometer. PTI

Number of members added by EPFO on a net basis in April

19.14 In lakh members. This figure depicts an increase of 31.31% over March 2025 and 1.17% growth over April 2024, the Labour Ministry said in a statement. The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) enrolled around 8.49 lakh new subscribers in April 2025. PTI

Number of persons injured in Algeria football stampede

81 Three people were killed and 81 injured in a stampede among supporters of Algerian football club MCA in Algiers, authorities said. A previous toll said that only one had died and 11 injured. As a result of the tragedy, the football league decided to cancel the trophy presentation ceremony. AFP

Total number of Indians evacuated from Iran

1,428 India on Sunday evacuated more than 300 Indian nationals from Iran amid the escalating tensions between the nation and Israel following the U.S. bombing of three Iranian nuclear sites. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Expansionary policies in a slowing economy

Stable macroeconomic outcomes require co-ordination between fiscal and monetary policy. The effects of expansionary fiscal policy can be nullified through contractionary monetary policy; this occurred in the U.K. and the U.S., where the announcement of tax cuts were met with a reluctance to further cut interest rates

ECONOMIC NOTES

Rahul Menon

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cut key lending rates in two successive meetings, indicating a significant expansionary shift. In April 2025, the repo rate was cut by 25 basis points, and a further 50 basis point cut was announced in the recent meeting in June, bringing the policy repo rate to 5.5%. The RBI forecasts GDP growth of 6.5% for 2025-26, and inflation within the band of 4% +/- 2%, indicating sufficient room for these rate cuts.

The reduction in inflation has allowed for this expansionary move. The expectation is that it will spur private investment and lead to increased growth rates. But these moves have come on the back of a similar expansionary move on the part of fiscal policy, that of the recent cuts in income taxes. The fact that expansionary fiscal policy is being followed by expansionary monetary policy necessitates questions regarding the policy mix.

Policy co-ordination

Both fiscal and monetary policy impact aggregate demand and inflation. By reducing interest rates by way of monetary policy, investments increase and vice versa. An increase in government spending or a reduction in taxes increases aggregate demand and consumption through fiscal policy. Increasing aggregate demand leads to rising demand for goods and services, thereby increasing labour demand and wages, eventually leading to an increase in inflation. Therefore, stable macroeconomic outcomes require co-ordination between fiscal and monetary policy. The effects of expansionary fiscal policy can be nullified through contractionary monetary policy; this occurred in the U.K. and the U.S., where the announcement of tax cuts were met with a reluctance on the part of monetary policy to further cut interest rates, citing the inflationary nature of such fiscal policy moves. When monetary policy becomes ineffective, expansionary fiscal policy is required. In the wake of the 2008 recession, when interest rates had hit zero, government spending was increased to bring full employment.

GETTY IMAGES

Currently, one can characterise both fiscal and monetary policy in India as being expansionary. The income tax cuts announced in February 2025 were forecast to provide a significant boost to the economy. This raises a serious question of economic policy co-ordination. If both policy moves work as they are intended to, it would imply a significant increase in inflation. Does the RBI foresee muted inflation risks even as consumption and investment demand both show an increase? Or has the consumption tax cuts failed to show any impact on output expansion, implying an increase in fiscal deficit in the future?

Muted growth

Inflation fell to a six-year low of around 3% in June, with early monsoons and a good harvest leading to a significant fall in the headline inflation rate. This has provided the RBI with sufficient room for a reduction in the interest rate, though headwinds, such as U.S. President Donald Trump's tariff wars and the growing conflict in Iran, loom on the horizon.

The economy does show signs of weakness. A recent SBI report indicated that credit growth has fallen to a three-year low of 9% in May 2025, while the unemployment rate has risen to 5.6% in May 2025 from 5.1% in April. Coupled with low inflation, these are indicative of an economy facing significant pressures on the aggregate demand front. The standard solution is to cut interest rates to boost investment in the face of slowing demand. What is of concern is the slowdown in the economy after the announcement of the income tax cuts. Households were expected to respond to the windfall gain in their disposable incomes by increasing their spending, thus leading to rising aggregate demand and inflation. On the contrary, though growth is forecast to remain steady at around 6.5%, these indicators show that the momentum might just be flagging.

Once could make the argument that these policies take time for signals to be converted into outcomes. Households may only convert the tax windfall into consumption when it actually materialises. But there are two problems with this argument. Firstly, it violates a central contention that individuals are inherently forward-looking, and can discount future windfalls into current spending. This assumption is central to the theoretical framework underlying modern inflation targeting. Secondly, if individuals are not forward-looking, and will only consume in the future, it would imply a sudden increase in future inflation when both investment and consumption increase, necessitating a sharp reaction for future monetary policy.

Deficit fears

Sufficient cuts to interest rates might provide the boost to the economy that income tax cuts could not. However, there is another problem. If output does not rise sufficiently, it would lead to a fall in tax collections, and a rise in the fiscal deficit. The only way to maintain the deficit is to cut government spending. If the government decides to cut revenue spending and not capital expenditure, the impact might fall on vulnerable populations that depend on such spending. With rising power of monopoly capital and a sustained shift towards profits away from wages, relying on normal market mechanisms may no longer achieve the desired outcomes. Sustained government intervention bringing about increases in wages and consumption power for those at the bottom of society is the need of the hour.

Rahul Menon is Associate Professor at O.P. Jindal Global University.

THE GIST

- Currently, one can characterise both fiscal and monetary policy in India as being expansionary. This raises a serious question of economic policy co-ordination.
- The economy does show signs of weakness. A recent SBI report indicated that credit growth has fallen to a three-year low of 9% in May 2025, while the unemployment rate has risen to 5.6% in May 2025 from 5.1% in April.
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How will foreign universities impact higher education?

What opportunities and prospects do foreign universities see in setting up campuses in India? Why are universities abroad dependent on international students? What are some of the challenges they will face?

Pushkar

The story so far:

Several foreign universities are setting up branch campuses in India. So far seven universities from the U.K., five from Australia, and one each from the U.S., Italy and Canada are in the process of obtaining necessary approvals or have done so already. Most will be located in GIFT City and Navi Mumbai. While India has been interested in attracting foreign universities for more than a decade, the 2020 New Education Policy (NEP) revived it and the government subsequently approved the UGC (Setting up and Operation of Campuses of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions in India) Regulations, 2023 (FHEI).

Why are foreign universities coming?

The countries of the Global North embarked on a massive expansion of higher education in the post-Second World War years to accommodate the growing number of young people headed to college. Over time, however, with falling birth rates, domestic enrolments started to plateau and then fall. By the early 21st century, the physical infrastructure and human capital of higher education institutions (HEIs) was too large for the diminishing numbers. This, along with cuts in public spending on higher education, started to create financial challenges. The solution was found in admitting larger numbers of international students who could be charged substantially higher tuition fees.

In 2023, international students represented 22% of total enrolments at U.K.'s universities, 24% in Australia and 30% in Canada. Though only 6% of enrolments at U.S. universities are international students, they make up for 27% of students at Ivy League schools. Universities in all "big four" host countries - Australia, Canada, the U.K. and the U.S. – have become financially reliant in varying degrees on international students. Over the past year, however, there has been a blowback. Australia and Canada have capped their international student numbers. In the U.K., new rules introduced in 2024 reduced the number of student visa applications. These restrictions are hurting universities. Redundancies have become widespread in the U.K., Australia and Canada. Therefore, many universities are looking to India to compensate for the reduced numbers of international students at their home campuses and to diversify their revenue sources.

What are some of the challenges?

India's young population and a relatively low but steadily rising gross enrolment ratio of just under 30% offers immense opportunities. However, branch campuses in other parts of the world – in China, Southeast Asia, and West and Central Asia – have a mixed record. There are several instances where they have lost money and exited. India will not be a walk in the park either.

First, India's higher education market is large in terms of student numbers – 40 million+ – but smaller in terms of the cost that an average student or family can afford. However, India is a growing economy and in the coming years, more people will be able to afford a relatively expensive college education. Second, India lacks a sufficient number of good quality HEIs. Beyond a small number of public and even fewer private institutions, the majority are average to mediocre. Branch campuses will offer better quality education than the majority of HEIs. Third, while many Indians aim to study abroad in order to emigrate, there are others who intend to work in India. Branch campuses will offer these students the option of a foreign degree at home.

The immediate to medium term impact of branch campuses can be expected to be limited. Even if a dozen or two of them are set up, their total student intake will be small. The response of Indian students to branch campuses in the first few years will be crucial to what happens next.

Pushkar is director, the International Centre Goa (Goa), Dona Paula.

THE GIST

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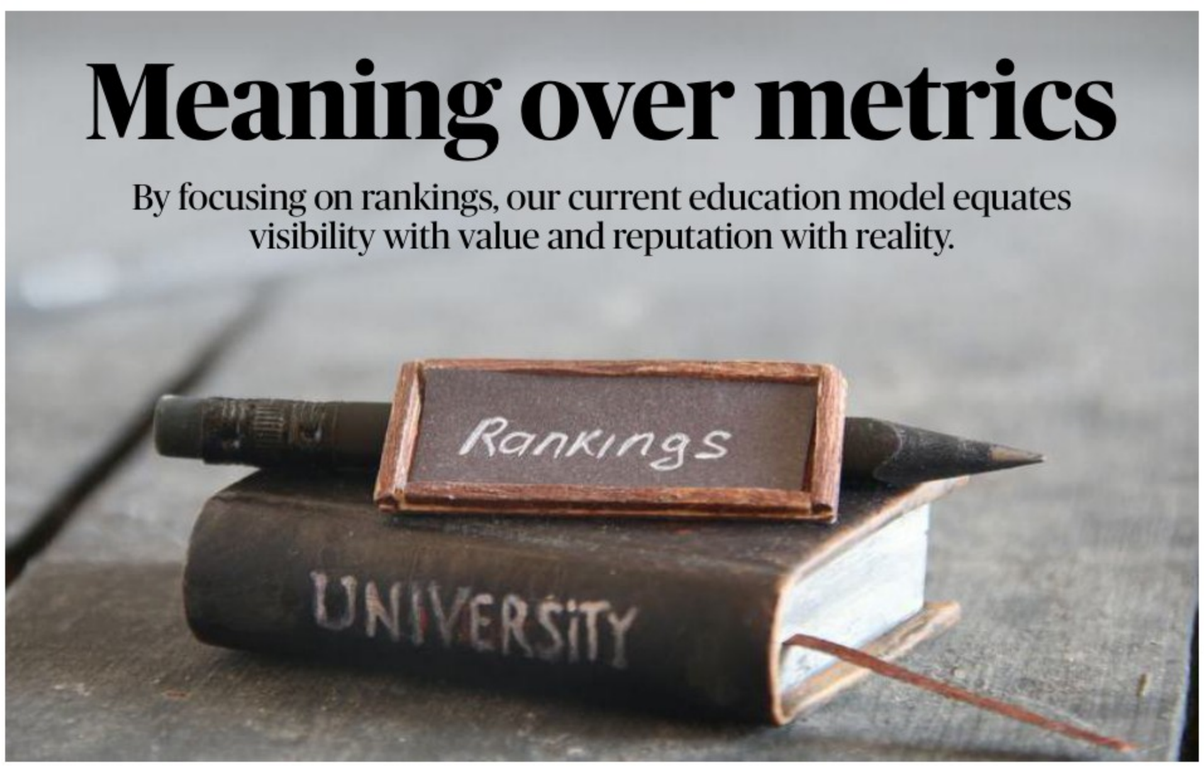

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John J. Kennedy

Academic brilliance was once defined by the depth of scholarship, rigorous institutional processes, and a culture of inquiry nurtured by universities. Today, the focus has shifted to metrics, badges, and rankings. Institutions showcase it, scholars highlight it, and stakeholders treat it as a seal of quality. Yet, as with all that glitters, one must ask: what lies beneath?

Today, Stanford is gaining recognition, alongside THE and QS rankings, despite the inherent flaws in all three. The Stanford ranking, for instance, seeks to identify the top 2% scientists in various disciplines based on a composite indicator. This includes bibliometric indicators such as total citations, h-index, co-authorship-adjusted metrics, and citations to papers in different authorship positions. While it appears scientific and data-driven, the exercise is not without flaws. For one, it depends entirely on Scopus data, a commercial database that does not cover all disciplines equally. Humanities and some Social Sciences are grossly under-represented, leaving a large swath of global academia invisible in the analysis. Moreover, the focus on citation-based metrics incentivises quantity over quality. A well-written, widely-cited review paper can push a researcher up the ranks, while a game-changing monograph in philosophy may not even register. What makes it even more problematic is the blind application of these rankings by institutions. Without context, nuance, or disciplinary sensitivity, they are turned into marketing tools. It is less about a commitment to excellence and more about optics and prestige. The ranking becomes currency; a transactional marker to attract funding, students, and media attention.

Indian context

In India, the situation is more troubling. The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has come under intense scrutiny after the recent revelation of a university in Andhra Pradesh allegedly paying crores to secure an A++ grade. Shockingly, nearly 20% of NAAC assessors were later removed due to various irregularities. The demand for a comprehensive probe into the assessments conducted by these discredited evaluators is reasonable and urgent. In recent years, many institutions have managed to secure top grades, which many argue is inconsistent with the ground reality of poor infrastructure, faculty shortages, and abysmal student outcomes. This raises a troubling question: Have we reduced institutional quality to a game of strategic networking, financial leverage, and performative documentation?

One cannot ignore the systemic pressures at play. The increasing corporatisation of academia has introduced market logic into the university system. As public funding shrinks, universities – especially private ones – are forced to rely on student fees and external rankings to remain afloat. This leads to a dangerous feedback loop. To attract students, institutions ease academic regulations, reduce penalties for indiscipline, and adopt student-centric policies that often border on appeasement. Faculty, burdened with teaching, administrative tasks, and publication requirements, face burnout. In such an environment, rankings become not just desirable but necessary. They are wielded as shields in an ever-intensifying battle for survival. Institutions chase Scopus-indexed journals to meet regulatory demands, not for the love of scholarship. Researchers pay exorbitant fees to get published and, when that fails, some resort to unethical practices, only for their papers to be retracted later.

Flawed model

In this matrix of manipulation, it is easy to blame the institutions. But the deeper malaise lies in the very education model we have embraced: one that equates visibility with value, metrics with meaning, and reputation with reality. Awards, too, have not been spared. Today, one can pay a tidy sum and receive an "Excellence in Research" award in a foreign country with a sightseeing tour and conference pass thrown in. We must ask: did our finest institutions of yesteryear depend on such scaffolding?

The situation may seem bleak, but not hopeless. To reverse the tide, we need to recalibrate our priorities. First, we must advocate for more context-sensitive and peer-reviewed models of assessment that go beyond metrics. Second, public funding for education must be restored and enhanced. The commodification of education is not an inevitable outcome; it is the result of deliberate policy choices. Third, academia must reclaim its soul. Universities are not businesses, and education is not a product. Rankings can be tools, but they must not become our tyrants. The rot will deepen until we resist the seduction of easy prestige and short-term gains. It's time to stop asking how to climb the ranks and start asking how to make learning meaningful again.

Views are personal

The writer is a retired professor and former Dean, School of Arts and Humanities, Christ Deemed-to-be University, Bengaluru.

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Courtesy: Buddy4study

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CACHE

Hanging by a thread: Microsoft Chairman and CEO Satya Nadella speaks in front of the OpenAI logo at the Microsoft Build 2025 conference in Seattle, Washington on May 19. AFP

How the relationship between OpenAI and Microsoft is turning sour

At the heart of the current negotiations are fundamental differences in strategic outlook. Recent reports suggest that Microsoft is prepared to halt discussions over the future contours of its OpenAI alliance if disagreements on critical terms — like Microsoft's future equity stake — persist

John Xavier

A 'head over heels' relationship between a tech titan and an AI startup that began over six years ago is turning sour. Microsoft and OpenAI's pact powered the startup's artificial intelligence engine to build generative pre-trained models and prepared the software maker for the AI era. Now – after cumulative investments between them have swelled to $13 billion – the duo is battling between mutual reliance and burgeoning autonomy. This recalibration carries weighty implications for both firms.

Recent reports suggest Microsoft is prepared to halt discussions over the future contours of its OpenAI alliance if disagreements on critical terms – like Microsoft's future equity stake – persist. The Windows software maker would then rely on its existing commercial contract, ensuring access to OpenAI's technology until 2030.This marks a potential inflexion point in a relationship that saw Microsoft's capital and cloud infrastructure propel OpenAI as the vanguard of AI.

Heart of the matter

At the heart of the current negotiations are fundamental differences in strategic outlook. OpenAI has been overtly seeking to lessen its dependency on Microsoft for cloud computing, a move underscored by new partnerships. Notably, OpenAI finalised a deal in May to use Google Cloud's infrastructure, a significant step to diversify its computing resources beyond Microsoft's Azure – its current exclusive provider. It has also partnered with CoreWeave and is exploring arrangements with Oracle as part of Project Stargate to further expand its compute capacity. Such diversification provides OpenAI with technical alternatives and, presumably, greater negotiating leverage.

The shifting personal ties between the firm leaders, Satya Nadella of Microsoft and Sam Altman of OpenAI, mirror these corporate recalibrations. Once in near-constant communication, with Mr. Nadella reportedly texting Mr. Altman five or six times a day, their interactions have become more formalised, primarily consisting of scheduled weekly calls, as per news reports.

This devolution from spontaneous chats to structured exchange began after Mr. Altman's brief ousting from OpenAI in late 2023 – an event that led Mr. Nadella to rearchitect his company's AI future. While Mr. Nadella backed Mr. Altman, the Microsoft CEO also made his controversial decision to bring DeepMind's Mustafa Suleyman on board. At that point, Mr. Suleyman was running Inflection AI. And as part of the deal, the entire team at Inflection AI joined the software maker.

Despite these undercurrents, public pronouncements remained diligently choreographed. Earlier this year, Mr. Altman posted a picture with Mr. Nadella on X, announcing the next phase of their partnership to be "much better" than anyone is ready for. Mr. Nadella echoed the optimistic sentiment. Such displays were aimed at reassuring investors amidst intricate private negotiations and mounting competition from other AI players, as well as increasing regulatory scrutiny globally.

Inflection point

A pivotal point of disagreement between the duo is OpenAI's corporate structure. In May, OpenAI announced it would restructure into a Public Benefit Corporation (PBC), while keeping its non-profit parent in control, retaining the authority to appoint board members. This was a significant shift from earlier considerations of a more conventional for-profit transition that might have diluted the non-profit's oversight and authority. The move, amidst criticism from OpenAI early investor Elon Musk, was aimed to better align its operational structure with its stated mission of developing AI for humanity's benefit, while still attracting investments. This restructuring requires Microsoft's assent as a key stakeholder – with the tech giant having provided billions of dollars in funding. Microsoft is said to be negotiating the size of its own potential stake in this new PBC, with discussions reportedly ranging from 20% to 49%. Failure to finalise this restructuring by year-end could jeopardise funding from other investors, including a significant investment from SoftBank.

Broader AI strategy

Microsoft, for its part, is not standing still. Its AI strategy is visibly broadening beyond its OpenAI relationship. At its Build 2025 conference, Microsoft showcased integrations of models from Anthropic and Musk's xAI, signalling a move towards a more diversified AI portfolio. The company is also developing its own smaller, in-house models, like Phi-4, to reduce costs and reliance on any single provider for its Copilot services.

This reflects a growing confidence in its proprietary capabilities and a desire to offer a wider range of AI tools on its Azure platform. Indeed, Microsoft's ability to leverage its existing agreement with OpenAI until 2030 offers it strategic latitude.

But the evolving Microsoft-OpenAI dynamic unfolds against a fiercely competitive AI landscape. Both entities are balancing the fruits of their collaboration against the imperatives of strategic independence and market differentiation.

Microsoft's potential willingness to pause talks and OpenAI's multi-cloud strategy both signal a relationship that is turning sour.

The denouement of these negotiations will not only chart the future courses of the two firms but also establish significant precedents for partnerships, governance, and commercialisation in the rapidly maturing AI domain. The relationship, once a lodestar for AI collaboration, now offers a salient lesson in managing the intricate dance of shared ambition and diverging paths in an industry perpetually remaking itself.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

A quiz to mark the Olympic Day on June 23 and takeover by the new President of the International Olympic Committee

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
Why is June 23 celebrated as Olympic Day?

QUESTION 2
When was the first Olympic Day celebrated with nine National Olympic Committees (NOCs) hosting ceremonies in their respective countries?

QUESTION 3
What is 'Move, learn, discover – Together for a better world' in the context of the Olympic Day?

QUESTION 4
What has been added to the "Let's Move?" theme for this year's Olympic Day?

QUESTION 5
The Olympic Day Run is conducted every year on June 23. In which year was the first such run organised?

QUESTION 6
Thomas Bach will step down as the IOC president on June 23 and handover charge after being in the helm for how many years?

Visual question:
Zimbabwe's Kirsty Coventry is the first woman to be elected as IOC president. In which sport did she win seven Olympic medals (including two gold)? AFP

Questions and Answers to the June 20 edition of the daily quiz: 1. The only city in the U.S. that will have two stadia hosting the FIFA Club World Cup 2025. **Ans: Orlando**
2. This venue is scheduled to host the final of the FIFA Club World Cup 2025. **Ans: MetLife Stadium, East Rutherford, New York City Area**
3. This football club holds the record of having played and won five finals of FIFA Club World Cup. **Ans: Real Madrid**
4. This football club holds the record of having participated in the World Cup the most number of times. **Ans: Auckland City, 11 times till 2023 and now 12th this year**
5. This country has hosted the FIFA Club World Cup the most number of times. **Ans: Japan – eight out of 20 tournaments held so far**
6. The only player to have won the Golden Ball twice in FIFA Club World Cup history. **Ans: Lionel Messi**
8. The only player to have scored a hattrick in the final of FIFA Club World Cup. **Ans: Cristiano Ronaldo, for Real Madrid against Kashima Antlers in the 2016 final**
9. Identify this player. **Ans: Toni Kroos, one with Bayern Munich and five with Real Madrid**
Early Birds: Siddhartha Viswanathan| Sukdev Shet| Tamal Biswas| Sunil Madhavan| Premnath. R

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

She has been running on fumes today

Her boss has a never-say-die attitude so she tries to be optimistic as well

S. Upendran

"I'm starving. Can I have a couple of slices of toast and a cup of coffee, please?"

"Coffee and toast? Haven't you had your breakfast?"

"No. I met the doctor yesterday, and he suggested that I get several tests done this morning. So, couldn't even have my early morning coffee."

"And it's well past your breakfast time. You must be running on fumes."

"Running on fumes? What are you talking about?"

"It's an idiom used in informal contexts. When you say that someone must be running on fumes, what you're suggesting is that the individual is very tired."

"In other words, he has very little energy."

"Exactly! The individual is like a car that has very little petrol left."

"I see. How about this example? We went on the 40 km trek on Sunday. The next day, at the office, most of us were running on fumes."

"Good example! Poor Nisha hadn't slept for two days. On the third day, it was fairly obvious to everyone that she was running on fumes. By the way, the expression can also be used with organisations. When you say that a company is running on fumes, what you mean is that it has very little resources left."

"In other words, the company has little or no money. It's on the verge of going bankrupt."

"Exactly! Here's an example. My uncle's company had been running on fumes for nearly a year. So, no one was really surprised when he decided to close it down."

"Like most textile factories in the city, we're running on fumes."

"What about your favourite team? Is it running on fumes?"

"We still have three matches to play. Anything can happen. Never say die, my friend."

"Never say die! What are you talking about?"

"It's an expression mostly used in informal contexts. It's used to encourage someone."

"In other words, you're telling the person, not to give up. There's hope yet."

"I guess you could say that! Our team requires sixty runs with two wickets in hand. Things don't look good, but never say die."

"That has been my attitude all my life. Never to give up."

"People often talk about someone having a 'never-say-die attitude'."

"So, a person with such an attitude doesn't give up easily?"

"He doesn't! He doesn't get easily discouraged. No matter what the situation, he continues to remain optimistic."

upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

Solicitous:

full of anxiety and concern; showing hovering attentiveness

Usage: *She made solicitous inquiries about our family.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/solicitouspro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /səˈlɪsɪtəs/

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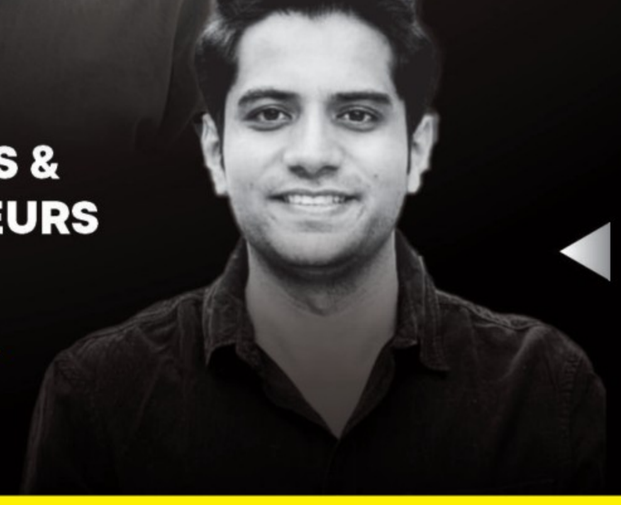

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BJP accuses Minister's aide of running illegal resort near Taraka Dam in H.D. Kote

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The BJP on Sunday flagged a resort close to Taraka Dam in H.D. Kote and alleged that it was an illegal property run by the private secretary of Minister for Housing B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan. The BJP State spokesperson M.G. Mahesh, in a release, said that as per the Records of Rights, Tenancy, and Crops (RTC), the ownership of the property was in the name of Sardar Sarfaraz Khan, private secretary to the Minister.

Mr. Mahesh alleged that the resort was operating illegally and accused the owner of misusing his political position in operating a commercial property on an agricultural land 'without legal approval'.

The property is in the eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) and the buffer zone of the Nagarahole Tiger Reserve and within the elephant conservation area, said Mr. Mahesh.

The BJP called for a site inspection of the property and urged Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre to initiate legal action.

7 lakes in Shivamogga to be developed for water sports

Balligavi Basavannana Kere, Doopadahalli Doddakere, Talagunda Hirekere, Keladi Kere, Kubaturu Kere, Humcha Mutthina Kere, and Gopishetty Koppa Doddakere identified for development

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

Lakes of Shivamogga district are all set to offer adventure to tourists as the Tourism and the Minor Irrigation Departments are starting water sports in seven lakes across different taluks. The lakes have been identified based on their proximity to popular tourist destinations

Balligavi Basavannana Kere, Doopadahalli Doddakere, Talagunda Hirekere, all from Shikaripur taluk; Keladi Kere from Sagar taluk; Kubaturu Kere in Sorab taluk; Humcha Mutthina Kere in Hosanagar taluk, and Gopishetty Koppa Doddakere in Shivamogga taluk will be developed to provide water sports.

"These places regularly see tourists. For instance, Sagar taluk usually has a good footfall of tourists because of its proximity to Jog Falls. Similarly, a lot of tourists come to Humcha Jain temple in Hosanagar. That is why we have selected them for development," said a senior official from the Tourism Department.

The official also said that instead of a 'one-shoe-fits-all' approach, different water sports will be offered at different lakes based on the water levels, ecology, and other factors to not disturb the ecosystems near these waterbodies.

New thrills: A file photo of tourists kayaking amidst thick mangroves in Udupi district. Rafting, kayaking, canoeing, windsurfing, and other such non-motorised activities will be taken up at seven lakes in Shivamogga.

"If a lake has a lot of fish and other aquatic life, then only boating will be taken up there. Sometimes the water level gets low in the summer and then the service providers will have to plan sports that can be done at such water levels," they added.

Rafting, kayaking, canoeing, windsurfing and such non-motorised activites will be taken up at the lakes.

Environmentalists say that while non-motorised activities might not have a direct impact on the ecosystem of the lakes, fish might be disturbed. However, it is the activity that comes with tourism that concerns them.

"The major thing is the pollution that's caused from single-use plastic in places declared as tourist destinations. Tourism in such places itself is hazardous to nature. Once these lakes become tourist destinations, more people will arrive and that will mean more private vehicles. Then they will go for road widening which will lead to landslides. Since the tenders will be awarded to private entities, it will also increase their dominance around these lakes. In a climate emergency scenario, such development of tourism is not necessary," opined Akhilesh Chipli, an environmentalist from the region.

The Tourism Department had recently called for a tender to provide water sports at these seven lakes and bids have been received. The details will be fine-tuned, and the tender will be awarded in the next few days.

Beaches, reservoirs

Along with the Minor Irrigation Department, the Tourism Department is also developing water sports hubs in 18 reservoirs including Kanva reservoir, Vani Vilas Sagar, Kabini, and even the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) reservoir. A tender has already been called for the development of KRS for water sports.

Further, 10 beaches, including Tannirbavi beach in Dakshina Kannada district and Maravanthe beach in Udupi district, will also be developed as water sports hubs as per the announcements of this year's State budget.

Kabini reservoir is safe; miscreants trying to spread panic, says CNNL

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

In a clarification issued in the wake of news telecast on some television channels, the managing director of Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Ltd. (CNNL) has said that the Superintending Engineer, Varuna Circle, Mysuru, conducted an inspection of the site at the Kabini reservoir on Saturday evening and submitted a report ruling out any threat to it.

"Contrary to media claims, water is not gushing out. Only mild seepage has been observed. The alarming news shown on some online platforms is far from the truth. There is no threat to the safety of the reservoir. The government has taken all necessary and appropriate steps to carry out the restoration work of the reservoir," the CNNL statement said.

According to the report submitted by the Superintending Engineer, the water level in the reservoir during the inspection on Saturday was 2,278 ft and it was holding about 15.8 tmcft of water. "Water is seeping gently in the said area. The video being circulated is found to be several years old," the statement said.

The statement also pointed out that the same section was inspected by the Dam Safety Review Team on May 20, 2022, and by the Dam Safety Review Panel on August 20, 2024. Based on the recommendations of both teams, repairs had already been planned and the issues highlighted in the media had already been addressed.

"It is suspected that some miscreants are trying to spread panic among the public. However, there is no cause for concern," the statement said.

The reservoir was receiving fresh inflow and owing to turbidity, the planned repair works will start during October-November, according to the Managing Director of CNNL.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY
(IMA & OTHER KPIDFE CASES)
3rd & 4th Floor, Podium Block, Visveswaraiah Towers, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru - 560001.
Phone No: 080 - 29604556, 29566556, 29565353 E-mail: splocaima21@gmail.com

No: SPLOCA/ADM/CLM/03/2025-26 Dated: 21-06-2025

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR CALLING CLAIMS RELATING TO M/S. I MARKET TRENDS ADVISORY LLP (MARKET TRENDS)

Public Notice under Section 7(2) of the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors In Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (KPIDFE) calling for submission of claims from the **Secured Creditors and Depositors** of **M/s. I Market Trends Advisory LLP (Market Trends).**

Claim forms will be issued at the office of the **Special Officer and Competent Authority, (IMA & Other KPIDFE Cases) 4th Floor, Podium Block, Vishveshwaraiah Tower, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Road, Bengaluru - 560001** to the depositor / authorized representative / nominee and in the absence of the nominee, the power of attorney holder on production of identity proof and proof of investment such as original copies of Bonds, official letter and PoA documents.

Starting Date of Issuing Claim Applications	30-06-2025	10.00 AM
Last Date for Submission of Claim Applications	29-07-2025	5.30 PM

DOCUMENTS TO BE PRODUCED FOR VERIFICATION:

1) Original ID- Aadhar, PAN / Epic with xerox for attestation.
2) Bank pass sheets 2 months prior to date of investment to till date in - M/s. I Market Trends Advisory LLP (Market Trends) duly attested by the bank manager to be furnished,
3) Copy of passbook with copy of pages showing KYC.
4) Original Bonds / Agreements / Notarized Affidavits / Other Substitute Documents issued.
5) General power of attorney in the case of Authorized Agent and statutory documents shall be produced in the original.
6) Where copies are allowed as support documents, either ink signed attested clear xerox copy of every page shall be provided or original shall be provided alongside xerox copy for attestation by concerned officer. Scans / WhatsApp copies are not acceptable.
7) Passbook Issued by FE
8) As per Section 7(4) and 7(5) of the Act, the secured creditors are required to value the security before the expiry period of 1 month and send it along with their claim statements, failing which the competent authority shall get the valuation of the security to the best of its judgement which shall be binding on the secured creditors.

In case of death or hospitalization of the depositor, his nominees/heirs have to submit the following documents as proof for their identity and investment.

Sl. No.	Depositors / Depositor's Nominees	Documents to be Submitted
1	Depositors	Depositors should submit the documents duly notarised with Notary / Gazetted Officer / and with self declaration.
2	Nominee	1) Death certificate of the depositor 2) Family tree (To be obtained from Tahsildar) 3) Nominee should self-attest the above documents.
3	Legal heirs	1) Death Certificate of the depositor 2) Family tree (To be obtained from the Tahsildar) 3) Death certificate of the specific nominee (Specific Nomination of the Death Certificate) 4) Legal heir's Certificate - Court Order 5) Legal Heir should submit self-attested above documents. 6) Consent from other Legal heirs
4	PoA - Power of Attorney	1) Documents supporting hospitalization of the depositor. (In case of critical illness, a report from Medical Officer should be submitted). 2) Apostilled copy citizen card and passport in case of depositor residing outside India. 3) For Sl. No. (1) and (2) Notarized Power of Attorney Certificate should be submitted. 4) POA holder should submit self-attested above documents.
5	Guardian of Minor	1) Death certificate of depositor. 2) Document regarding appointment of guardian. 3) Self-attested documents of above.

Applicants submitting the claim applications should submit the below mentioned documents as proof of investments in **M/s. I Market Trends Advisory LLP (Market Trends).**

Sl. No.	Depositors / Depositor's Nominees	Documents to be Submitted
1	Savings Deposit	1) Copy of front page of pass book with photograph. 2) Savings Deposit Passbook issued by the Financial Establishment. 3) Transaction Statement page in Pass book of claimed amount. *Depositors / Nominees / Legal Heirs / PoA holders must submit the above documents duly attested by Notary / Gazetted Officers / self.
2	Fixed Deposit	1) Copy of front page of pass book with photograph. 2) Deposit Bond / Certificate / Fixed Deposit Certificate / Other. 3) Transaction Statement page in Pass book of claimed amount. *Depositors / Nominees / Legal Heirs / PoA holders must submit the above documents duly attested by Notary / Gazetted Officers / self.
3	Cumulative Deposit	1) Copy of front page of pass book with photograph. 2) Cumulative Deposit Certificate. 3) Transaction Statement page in Pass book of claimed amount. *Depositors / Nominees / Legal Heirs / PoA holders must submit the above documents duly attested by Notary / Gazetted Officers / self.
4	Recurring Deposit	1) Copy of front page of pass book with photograph. 2) Recurring Deposit Pass book issued by the Financial Establishment. 3) Transaction Statement page in Pass book of claimed amount. *Depositors / Nominees / Legal Heirs / PoA holders must submit the above documents duly attested by Notary / Gazetted Officers / self.
5	MES Deposit	1) Copy of front page of pass book with photograph. 2) MES Deposit Pass book issued by the said Financial Establishment. 3) Transaction Statement page in Pass book of claimed amount. *Depositors / Nominees / Legal Heirs / PoA holders must submit the above documents duly attested by Notary / Gazetted Officers / self.

- Any application received after the last date fixed for submission of claims under Section 7(3) of the KPIDFE Act shall not be accepted under the provisions of the Act.
- Any claim based on concocted documents or forged documents shall be rejected and criminal action will be initiated against such applicants.
- For more information regarding the procedures for submission of applications, applicants may contact the **Office of the Special Officer and Competent Authority, (IMA & Other KPIDFE Cases), 4th Floor, Podium Block, Vishveshwariah Tower, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Road, Bengaluru - 560001.**
- Applicants who have invested in more than one scheme in **M/s. I Market Trends Advisory LLP (Market Trends),** must submit the claims in separate applications.

Sd/-
Assistant Commissioner-1 and Competent Authority
M/s. I Market Trends Advisory LLP (Market Trends)

DIPR/CP/1379/Adverto/2025-26

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Public Works Department
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Mysuru Division, Mysuru.
E-mail: eepwdmys21@gmail.com
Phone No. & Fax No. 0821 -2420810
TENDER NO: NO: EE/IFT/SERVICE TEND/AE-2/04/2025-26 DATE:18-06-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Public Works Department has published Short term Tender notification for Consultancy Services For Preparation Of Detailed Project Report (DPR) For Construction Of Elevated Flyover/Grade Separators At Important Roads In Mysore City Limits. under this division with KC-4 Conditions & regulations. with Two cover systems. EMD amount is Rs. 5,90,400.00/- Tenders shall be Submitted in KPPP Portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from 19.06.2025 to 27.06.2025 within 17.00 PM. And the Pre bid Meeting will be held in the under signed office at 11.00 A.M on 23.06.2025. The Contractor Registered in KPPP portal and Firm/ Company can participate. More details can be obtained from the office of the under Signed during office hours. Any amendments or modifications in tender notification will be published in e-procurement.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Public Works Department.
Mysuru Division, Mysuru
DIPR/DDMYS/491/KSMCA/296/2025-26

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

KPTCL invites bids for the following works coming under the jurisdiction of Transmission (Op) Circle-South, Bengaluru.

1. No. SEE/Tr(Op)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-1/F-29(13)/25-26/1082-83 Date: 21.06.2025
Enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/TR(Op)/EE(O)/AEE-1/25-26/EPR-08, Call-1, Dated 19.06.2025 for replacement of age old 66kV Pneumatic Circuit Breaker and C&R Panel of 66kV Capacitor Bank at 220kV R/s Hoody.

2. No. SEE/Tr(Op)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-1/F-29(13)/25-26/1084-85 Date: 21.06.2025
Enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/TR(Op)/EE(O)/AEE-1/25-26/EPR-01, Call-1, Dated 19.06.2025 for providing CI type grounding & 72x12mm size GI flat to LAs, CVTs and NCTs of transformers to attend the R&D observations of earth integrity test at 400kV Receiving station Hoody.

3. No. SEE/Tr(Op)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-1/F-321(02)/25-26/1089-90 Date: 21.06.2025
Enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/TR(Op)/EE(O)/AEE-1/24-25/EPR-86, Call-3, Dated 14.02.2025 for repairing cracks developed at LILO tower point of 66kV, 1000 Sq mm UG Cable at 66/11kV Sub Station, Kaggalipura (Brigade meadows) in Operation Division Somanahalli pertaining to EHV Cable Division.

The bids will be received through E-Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in with hyperlink 'E Procurement KPTCL' or to https://kppp.karnataka gov.in on or after 23.06.2025. Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer Ele, Transmission (Operation)
Circle-South, KPTCL, Office Complex, Ground Floor
A.R. Circle, Bengaluru –09. Ph: 22386686-85

WIDE ANGLE
Albert P' Rayan

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Every year, thousands of Indian students pursue higher education abroad, with the U.S., Canada, the U.K., and Australia being among the top choices. According to data from the Ministry of Education, the number of Indian students studying overseas increased by 52.2% over five years; from 586,337 in 2019 to 892,989 in 2023.

This is due to several factors: the perception of receiving a globally recognised, high-quality education at top-ranked universities; access to cutting-edge research facilities; improved career prospects; international exposure; better job opportunities and higher salaries; a superior quality of life; and relatively smoother immigration processes.

Studies indicate that over 75% of Indian students who study abroad intend to work and settle in their host countries, with only a small fraction planning to return to India. This suggests that such students have already considered critical questions such as: What are the advantages of earning a degree from a foreign university? What career opportunities will it open up?

New questions

Now, with some foreign universities setting up campuses in India, aspiring students are beginning to ask a new set of questions: What are the benefits of earning a degree from an international university's Indian campus? Is it as valuable as studying at the main campus abroad? Will it offer the same academic experience and career prospects?

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 supports the establishment of independent campuses by foreign universities in India and Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan recently announced that 15 international universities will set up campuses in the country during the current academic year.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has already issued Letters of Intent (LoI) to some institutions, including the University of Liverpool and to the University of Aberdeen to set up branch campuses in Bangalore and Mumbai respectively.

Significant gains

According to the specified guidelines, foreign universities seeking entry into India must rank among the top 500 globally, demonstrate subject-specific expertise, and be duly recognised in their home countries to offer academic and research programmes. They will have autonomy in designing their curriculum, managing admissions, setting fee structures and are authorised to award internationally recognised degrees. Foreign universities stand to gain significantly by entering the Indian education sector as they can expand their global footprint, enjoy academic and administrative autonomy, and offer international degrees within India.

The presence of top-ranked foreign university campuses in India is also expected to bring several advantages to the country. It can introduce world-class education; help raise domestic academic standards to global levels and promote knowledge exchange. Participation in conferences organised by these institutions can provide Indian scholars with valuable exposure and enriching learning experiences. Moreover, Indian students will be able to earn foreign degrees without going abroad, thereby helping retain talent within the country.

But one must also ask: who are the actual beneficiaries? Will these branch campuses cater exclusively to the elite? Will academically gifted students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds have an opportunity to gain admission?

In a country where millions of young people struggle to access higher education – or are unable to pursue it due to financial constraints – this initiative risks neglecting local needs and priorities.

Motives

With regard to bringing world-class education to India, any foreign university setting up a campus here is primarily driven by monetary interests, and the focus is likely to be on profit rather than academic excellence. This opens the door to the commercialisation of education, reducing it to a commodity rather than upholding it as a service.

Foreign university branch campuses in India risk becoming symbols of elitism rather than instruments of equality or social justice. A truly vibrant campus is one that embraces equality, upholds social justice, and celebrates diversity and inclusiveness.

On a typical Indian campus, students from diverse socio-economic and cultural backgrounds come together, interact, and learn from one another. This environment helps everyone become sensitive to the needs of one another and empathetic. A foreign campus in India is unlikely to foster or reflect this kind of inclusive environment. Introducing foreign university campuses should lead to reforms in the education sector, not widen inequality.

It is misguided to claim that graduates from foreign university campuses in India will help reduce brain drain. On the contrary, a degree from a foreign university can serve as a stepping stone and increase the chances for those who aspire to work abroad.

If the purpose of inviting foreign universities to set up branch campuses in India is to bring world-class education, develop global citizens, and transform the country into a "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India) by 2047, the focus must be on addressing local needs, particularly by enabling economically and socially disadvantaged groups to access higher education and by improving the overall quality of education. That is what will lead to true transformation. Let us not forget: all that glitters is not gold.

The writer is an ELT resource person and education columnist. Email: rayanal@yahoo.co.uk

SAVE THE DATE

INCUBATE 2025
Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER), Puducherry, and the IIT-Bombay have launched INCUBATE 2025, a Med-Tech hackathon to innovate solutions for pressing healthcare challenges.
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Voice in leaked audio clip is mine and I've spoken the truth, says B.R. Patil

He points out that the clip got much hype rather than the issue of corruption in house allotment

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

A land MLA and Deputy Chairman of the Karnataka State Policy and Planning Commission B.R. Patil, who spoke on bribery in the allotment of houses under Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation Limited in a phone conversation with Housing and Minority Welfare Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan's private secretary Sarfaraz Khan, has clarified that the voice in the audio clip of the conversation is his.

"It is my voice in the audio clip but, I do not know who leaked it. I have only spoken the truth and truth ultimately wins," he maintained.

Speaking to media persons at his residence in Kalaburagi earlier on Sunday, Mr. Patil said that neither Chief Minister Siddaramaiah nor Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar have spoken to him on this yet.

Mr. Patil, who showed reluctance to speak about the issue, stated that the leaked audio clip got much

B.R. Patil

hype rather than the corruption charge against house allotment that he discussed with Mr. Sarfaraz Khan.

'Didn't name anyone'

"Recently, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda also spoke about bribes and corruption in some departments during his surprise visit to an office in Bengaluru South taluk. He asked officials to put up a board showing the 'running rate' fixed for each case to get approval. Similarly, I too made the charge of bribery for allotment of houses under various housing scheme. Moreover, I did not take any name in the conversation. I don't know why I was in the eye of a storm," he said.

Mr. Patil said that the purpose of his calling Mr. Sarfaraz was to inquire about the ₹17 crore funds released to Moulana Azad School in Aland taluk without bringing it to his notice. Recently, the Kalyana Karnataka Region Development Board (KKRDB) too sanctioned funds for development works in the same school.

"I am unaware about the funds released through the Minority Welfare Department to Moulana Azad School in my constituency," he added.

Refuting the allegation made by the former Aland MLA Subhash Guttedar that he [Mr. Patil] is blackmailing the Congress high command through such strategies to get inducted into the Cabinet, Mr. Patil said that if he were to indulge in such dirty politics, he would have not lost elections multiple times.

CM seeks explanation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As the allegation about cash-for-house scam made by Aland legislator B.R. Patil has given fodder for the Opposition to attack the government, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is learnt to have called him to seek an explanation.

While Mr. Patil's purported telephone conversation with a close aide of Housing Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan has left the government red-faced, his statement on Sunday confirming that it was his voice has further embarrassed the government.

Sources in the Chief Minister's Office said that taking exception to such public statements, Mr. Siddaramaiah had asked the legislator to meet him in person to explain.

"Mr. Patil will meet the Chief minister either in Raichur on Monday or once the Chief Minister returns from Delhi," they said.

Ahead of Delhi visit, CM meets Governor to discuss Bills pending with President

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Ahead of his visit to Delhi, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday met the Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot to discuss the Bills that are pending with the President's office for assent and those that have been returned seeking clarification.

According to sources, the Chief Minister is scheduled to meet President Draupadi Murmu to discuss the pending Bills. Sources said five Bills are pending with the President currently, and three Bills have been sent back for clarification. He was accompanied by Higher Education Minister M.C. Sudhakar when he met the Governor.

Courtesy call: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah called on Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot in Bengaluru on Sunday.

Those pending

Among the Bills pending with the President are the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2015; the Registration (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2025; and the Karnataka Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments (Amendment) Bill, 2024. The three Bills that have been returned for clarification are the Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 1944 (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2022; the Registration (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2024; and the Karnataka (Mineral Rights and Minerals Bearing Lands) Tax Bill, 2024.

Sources in the Chief Minister's Office said Mr. Siddaramaiah has scheduled events in Raichur on Monday, after which he would leave for Delhi from there. The meeting with the President has been scheduled for Tuesday.

Corruption charge: Oppn. attacks govt.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Opposition BJP and Janata Dal (Secular) have continued to attack the Congress government over corruption charges in the Housing Department that have surfaced after Karnataka State Policy and Planning Commission Deputy Chairman B.R. Patil's purported telephone conversation surfaced in public. BJP leaders termed the corruption allegation as a system of "pay money, get a house".

The accusations came amid another purported telephone conversation of the personal assistant of the Nagthan legislator, in which a demand for bribe was made, surfaced. Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok told reporters in Mandya that "pay money, get a house" has become a new slogan for the housing board. "Blood-sucking leeches have infiltrated the Housing Department. Instead of providing homes to the poor, they are selling them," he alleged.

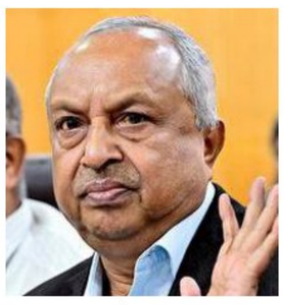
'All are aware of it'

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Sunday told presspersons here that all the 224 legislators in the State were aware of the corruption and commission business under the Congress government. "It is unfortunate that payment has to be made for every scheme or programme that a legislator wants to take to his constituency. Does the Chief Minister have any shame? He continues to accommodate the corrupt person in his Cabinet," he said without taking the name of the Housing Minister.

Mr. Kumaraswamy said the letter written by Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil had been leaked to the media to divert attention from the "housing scam". "He has been a Minister for two years now. What was he doing till now?" Later, in Mandya, he alleged that "the legislators have to pay to get money released for their constituencies, and in the Vidhana Soudha, Ministers are functioning like middlemen with a fixed rate card."

Accusing the senior leaders in the Congress government of threatening the legislator for speaking the truth, BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra said the government was encouraging state-sponsored corruption. "There is no scheme for the poor under the Congress government except corruption. We will take to the streets."

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said the cash for house scam allegation made by Mr. B.R. Patil was a "lie". He said he was not sure if Mr. B.R. Patil was aware of full information. "I will speak with him."



H.N. Nagamohan Das

SC survey deadline extended till June 30

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amid demand by some Dalit factions not to extend the survey of the Scheduled Castes (SCs), the commission headed by retired judge H.N. Nagamohan Das, which has been tasked to recommend internal reservation for the SCs, has announced another extension. The deadline to end the survey, which was Sunday, is now June 30.

Started on May 5

The survey of 101 Scheduled Castes in the State commenced on May 5 since the commission has been asked by the State government to suggest slicing up the 17% reservation for the SCs among the Dalit 'right' and Dalit 'left', and other castes. The survey to gather empirical data has received multiple extensions already, and has had 91% of the households across Karnataka covered. However, the survey has covered just about 50% of the households in Bengaluru. This is likely to be the final deadline, commission sources said.

The commission has said that those who have not yet participated in the survey can do so at KarnatakaOne, BengaluruOne and GramaOne centres, Bapuji Kendras, 198 ward offices in the BBMP limits, and also online.

Former Minister H. Anjaneya was among many individuals and organisations who had suggested to the commission that the deadline not be extended.

HDD writes to Modi seeking mango procurement by NAFED

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Former Prime Minister H. D. Deve Gowda has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan seeking that the Centre instruct National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) to procure mangoes under the price deficiency payment (PDP) and market intervention scheme (MIS) to bail out Karnataka's mango growers who are in distress due to crash in prices of the produce.

In separate, but similarly worded, letters dated June 22, Mr. Gowda brought the plight of mango growers to the knowledge of both Mr. Modi and Mr. Chouhan and said that mango was one of the major horticultural crops in Karnataka, cultivated over

H.D. Deve Gowda

an area of 1.39 lakh hectares, particularly in Bengaluru Rural, Bengaluru Urban, Chickballapur, Kolar, and Bengaluru South (formerly Ramanagara) districts, with an estimated production of eight lakh to 10 lakh tonnes during the rabi season.

However, due to weather vagaries and diseases, the mango yield has dropped to less than 30% this year, he pointed out.

"From May to June this year, heavy arrivals caused unsustainable price fluctuations. Prices fell from ₹12,000 per quintal to ₹3,000 per quintal, while the cultivation cost itself is ₹5,466 per quintal. This has financially stressed farmers, with many small and marginal mango growers unable to cover basic costs, leading to protests," Mr. Gowda said.

He expressed concern that Andhra Pradesh's ban on Totapuri mango varieties entering Chittoor district, adjacent to Karnataka, has disrupted the supply chain and resulted in a risk of post-harvest losses for Karnataka's border area mango growers.

The Chief Minister of Karnataka and the Chief Secretary have asked Andhra Pradesh to revoke this ban immediately. Additionally, the State government has requested the Centre to start procurement through Central agencies such as NAFED and the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Ltd. to aid farmers and alleviate rural distress, he noted.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

When DKS took a tumble

Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar (*pictured*) falling while cycling on the Vidhana Soudha premises in Bengaluru last week has sparked a meme fest.

As he reached the steps of the State Secretariat on his cycle, during a World Environment Day event, the KPCC chief appeared to lose balance and fell down. Officials nearby rushed to help him up.

The incident was caught on camera and has gone viral on social media since then.

Residents of Bengaluru used this incident to point to the plight of ordinary people cycling on pothole-filled roads. In one viral AI-generated image, Mr. Shivakumar is seen cycling through pothole-ridden roads with stray dogs chasing him.

Standing in for Ministers

It is common to see relatives of Ministers, who are also legislators, stand in for them and carry out inaugurations and foundation stone laying of projects in various north Karnataka districts.

For instance, it is not uncommon for Channaraj Hattiholi, MLC and brother of Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar, to go around laying foundation stones and inaugurating projects in Belagavi. On several occasions, Priyanka Jarkiholi, MP, receives grievances or launches projects in place of her father, Satish Jarkiholi, Public Works Minister.

Sometimes, however, the privilege extends to their children and brothers who are not elected representatives too. In Athani, for example, Chidanand Savadi, son of MLA Laxman Savadi, does the honours. In Gokak and surrounding taluks, people have got used to the nine children of the five Jarkiholi brothers participating in inaugurations and project launches. In fact, Gokak residents are surprised when Ramesh Jarkiholi, MLA, and Lakhan Jarkiholi, MLC, attend programmes.

Lesson for journalists

Energy Minister K.J. George, earlier last week, had invited reporters for an impromptu media interaction. While reporters went there expecting an announcement of a new scheme or project, the Minister had other plans.

After answering a couple of questions, Mr. George pulled out a popular Kannada daily that had carried a headline regarding smart meters which roughly translated to "Smart meters are illegal".

Smart meters have been the topic of discussion for months now, with the Opposition accusing the Minister and other officials of the Energy Department of a "scam". In a recent hearing, the High Court said that smart meters are compulsory only for temporary and new electricity connections.

Irked by the misleading headline, Mr. George took the opportunity to teach "how to write a headline" to a room full of journalists. "The paper has carried one strand of argument as the headline instead of reflecting the judgment. I am not saying that it should not have been carried, but a fair coverage involves the inclusion of the arguments of the appellants, our defence, and the judgment," he explained.

He even asked if the reporter of the publication was present and would take responsibility for it, but was greeted by silence.

He also accused journalists of consistently opposing all his projects: from the steel flyover back when he was the Bengaluru Development Minister to the Sharavati Pumped Storage project.

K. Murali Kumar
Rishikesh Bahadur Desai
Jahnavi T.R.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is brought to the notice of the general public that my client **Mrs Sajida Begum** Residing at No. 467, 6th Cross, 10th Main, Viveknagar, Bangalore-560047, has lost the original absolute sale deed bearing No.BNG(U) KNGR/14762/2003-04 Dated 06.09.2003, registered before the sub registrar, Kengeri Bangalore, pertaining to the below mentioned schedule property somewhere in Viveknagar, Bangalore 560047.

In this regard a police complaint has also been registered at Viveknagar Police station, anybody finding the documents or having possession of the said documents may hand it over to my client.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of residential property bearing property house No.228, old no 25, situated at Kadirenehalli Villege, Uttarahlli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk. Then property no.228/25, present Corporation no.6, 6th Main Road, Illias Nagar, Kadirenahalli, Bangalore in Bangalore Mahanagara palike ward no. 55, measuring East to West 40 Feet and North to South 30 Feet in total 1200 Sqft.

Bounded on:
East by : Road
West by : Site No.248,
North by : Site No. 227,
South by : Site No.229.

J.RAVINDRAN, Advocate
No.310, 4th Cross, 6th Main, Viveknagar, Bangalore-569947. Mobile: 9900609429.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, KUMARI Nidhi , Spouse of Akhil Kumar R/O SMQ No 138/10 AFS Chimney Hills, B'lore–560090 have changed my name From Kumari Nidhi to KM Nidhi vide affidavit dtd 18 Jun 2025 before Bagalagunte, B'lore.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE XXXV ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSION JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-36)
Original Suit No. 6930/ 2022
Hg. 29/07/2025

BETWEEN:
ICICI Bank Ltd.
A body corporate incorporated and registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 and licensed As a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 having Registered Office at
"Landmark", Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390 007 and having its Regional office at ICICI Bank Ltd., 11th Floor, C-Wing, Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bengaluru-560 001
And Represented by its POA Holder, Mr. M Rohit Ali S/o Ishrath Ali M, Aged about 25 years, ...Plaintiff
AND
Mr. SARAVANAN G V
S/o Venkataraman G N
Aged about 47 years,
R/a M2, Sahara Palace Apartments, 7th C Main, Near Axis ATM, Koramangala 3rd Block, Bengaluru-560034.
...Defendant

Summons/Notice through Paper Publication

S/o Venkataraman G N
Aged about 47 years,
R/a M2, Sahara Palace Apartments, 7th C Main, Near Axis ATM, Koramangala 3rd Block, Bengaluru-560034.
...Defendant

WHEREAS the above named Plaintiff has instituted case against you for recovery loan amount Rs. 13,54,715/- together with interest at the rate 18% p.a. from date of due to till the date of realization.

You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble XXXV Addl. City Civil & Session Judge Court (CCH-36), At Bengaluru, in person or by a Advocate/ Pleader on 29/07/2025 at 11.00 A.M to answer the questions of the same. Failing which the matter will be heard and determined as "EX-PARTE".

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 16th day of June, 2025.

By the order of the Court
Senior Sheristedar
City Civil Court,
Bengaluru

Censor Board seeks name change for film starring Suresh Gopi

S.R. Praveen
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Union Minister Suresh Gopi is yet to comment on the issue.

The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has asked the makers of the film *JSK - Janaki Vs State of Kerala*, starring Union Minister Suresh Gopi, to change the title of the film. Filmmaker Pravin Narayanan told *The Hindu* on Sunday that the Board's stand had effectively stalled the release of the film scheduled for June 27.

Asked about the issue, regional officials of the CBFC were evasive, and said the "certification process is ongoing".

According to Mr. Narayanan, the Thiruvananthapuram regional office of the CBFC had cleared the film on June 18 with a U/A certificate.

However, when the regional office forwarded the same to the CBFC headquarters in Mumbai, the higher officials there demanded a change in the title as well as the name of the titular character of Janaki, apparently because the name also refers to the Hindu goddess Sita.

"We were supposed to load the content with the censor certificate attached on June 20 for distribution to release centres across the world. But on that evening, the CBFC officials told the producer that the film would not be certified unless the film and character names are changed. We told them to give us a written document denoting this, so that we can proceed to the review committee. The officials have told us that they will provide this on Monday. We have already spent a lot on publicity events and marketing. The online ticketing process was also about to begin," Mr. Narayanan said.

Minister yet to respond

He said that the changes, if forced, would cause immense damage to the film as the mention of the name would have to be removed from several dialogues in the film. Mr. Gopi, the Union Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas, is yet to comment on the issue.

Filmmaker M.B. Padmakumar had recently spoken about the issues he faced from the CBFC over a character in his upcoming film *Token Number* being named Janaki.

The Board officials had demanded a change in either the name of Janaki or her lover Abraham. The film was certified only after he gave into the Board's demands and changed the name Janaki to Jayanthi.

Nilambur result today; tight security in place

Counting will begin at 8 a.m.; early trends are likely by 10 a.m., and result may be known by noon; ruling LDF candidate M. Swaraj and Aryadan Shoukath of the UDF are the frontrunners

The Hindu Bureau
MALAPPURAM

Rival candidates M. Swaraj (left) and Aryadan Shoukath meet at a polling booth on Thursday. SAKEER HUSSAIN

The counting of votes polled in the Nilambur Assembly byelection held on June 19 will begin at Mar Thoma Government Higher Secondary School, Chungathara, at 8 a.m. on Monday. Early trends are likely to be available by 10 a.m., and results are likely to be announced by noon.

All arrangements are in place for the counting. As many as 1,76,070 votes were polled (75.87%) in the byelection, which was necessitated by the resignation of Left Democratic Front (LDF)-backed Independent MLA P.V. Anvar in January.

The vote count will begin with postal ballots and then proceed to EVMs. The votes polled in the 263 polling stations will be counted in 19 rounds. As many as 14 polling stations will be considered for each round. However, the last round (19th round) will have only 11 polling stations. As many as 86 trained officials have been posted for counting the votes, including 25 micro observers, 24 counting supervisors, 30 counting assistants, and seven assistant returning officers.

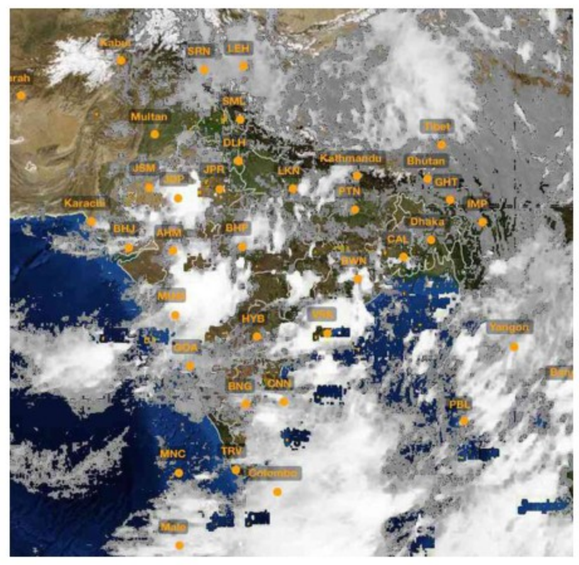
After counting is over, VVPAT slips of five polling stations chosen through a draw of lots after each round will be counted separately under the supervision of the Election Commission Observers.

District Collector V.R. Vinod, who is the District Election Officer, said here on Sunday that surveillance cameras would record the entire counting process. Mr. Vinod said that there would be three-tier security by Central and State security forces.

As many as 10 candidates were in the fray. LDF candidate M. Swaraj and United Democratic Front candidate Aryadan Shoukath were the frontrunners as both fronts took on each other fiercely.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy to very heavy rain likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Bihar, east Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Konkan region, Goa, Madhya Maharashtra, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sub Himalayan West Bengal, Sikkim and Uttarakhand.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	35.2	26.8	Kozhikode	6.0	32.3	25.7
Ahmedabad	14.0	33.4	26.4	Kurnool	—	37.0	26.2
Aizawl	—	33.0	20.6	Lucknow	7.0	36.7	26.6
Allahabad	27.0	33.0	25.5	Madurai	—	40.6	27.5
Bengaluru	—	29.8	21.0	Mangaluru	7.0	29.9	24.2
Bhopal	1.0	26.6	24.2	Mumbai	7.4	32.1	25.0
Bhubaneswar	4.0	35.0	25.6	Mysuru	—	30.4	20.0
Chandigarh	—	34.0	27.9	New Delhi	—	36.5	28.9
Chennai	—	34.7	28.8	Patna	20.0	32.2	27.2
Coimbatore	—	32.5	23.4	Port Blair	30.0	29.5	24.2
Dehradun	—	30.0	25.8	Puducherry	—	36.4	27.7
Gangtok	36.0	26.1	17.9	Pune	1.5	29.6	24.0
Goa	11.0	31.6	25.5	Raipur	—	32.2	26.7
Guwahati	8.0	34.4	26.1	Ranchi	—	31.7	24.2
Hubballi	—	29.0	22.0	Shillong	—	—	—
Hyderabad	—	34.5	24.0	Shimla	2.0	23.2	18.5
Imphal	0.4	31.5	23.5	Srinagar	—	33.0	23.4
Jaipur	21.0	35.7	26.2	Thiruvananthapuram	4.0	32.2	24.8
Kochi	16.0	29.4	24.4	Tiruchi	—	37.5	28.0
Kohima	15.0	30.0	20.0	Vijayawada	—	—	—
Kolkata	1.0	33.8	25.8	Visakhapatnam	—	33.7	29.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.18	.29	38	56	42	
Bengaluru	.9	.30	34	49	70	
Chennai	.16	.8	34	37	45	
Delhi	.8	.33	99	63	83	
Hyderabad	.4	.9	76	89	94	
Kolkata	.3	.45	26	68	70	
Lucknow	.9	.40	49	41	86	
Mumbai	.37	.4	.5	74	93	
Pune	.—	.18	68	18	42	
Visakhapatnam	.26	.72	27	59	109	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Nandesari, Gujarat recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 263 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 14.

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

'Anti-Hindu forces misusing freedom of speech'

Sundar S.
MADURAI

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan on Sunday hit out at "pseudo-secularists" who, he alleged, were "disrespecting" only Hindu Gods and the Hindu culture.

Participating in the Muruga Bhaktargal (devotees) conference organised by the Hindu Munnani in Madurai, he claimed that Hindus were facing disrespect for the last 75 years as they failed to stop such [anti-Hindu] forces, who were using as a shield the "freedom of speech" guaranteed by the Constitution. He further said that the tolerance and patience of Hindus should not be mistaken for cowardice.

Quoting a Tamil proverb, "*Sadhu mirandal kaadu kollathu*", which means that "even a forest cannot withstand the anger of a sage", he urged Hindus to unite and put up a courageous fight against such forces. "We will unite with love and win with anger," he said. "We should take on the destructive forces on our own," he said.

The conference drew a massive crowd of Lord Murugan devotees and functionaries of the Hindu Munnani, BJP, and RSS.

With the Madras High Court directing the organisers not to mix politics with *bhakthi* at the event, most of the speakers did not take any names of political parties or political leaders even though they attacked those who were against the philosophy of Hinduism.

However, they said certain politicians were wiping *tiruneeru* (holy ash) from their forehead before posing for selfies, pointing out that such forces were disrespecting the Gods, culture, and way of life of Hindus.

Inter-State traffic affected

The Hindu Bureau
HOSUR

A 700-metre-long flyover on the Hosur-Bengaluru National Highway was closed to traffic late on Saturday after a bearing failure caused a transverse shift. The timely detection of the problem helped to avoid any untoward incident. The inter-State traffic towards Bengaluru was affected in the late hours. On Sunday, a team of NHAI officials and an independent bridge expert inspected the structure.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Virender Sambyal, Regional Officer, who is part of the NHAI team, said the bearing failure may have been caused by a combination of factors, including wear and tear or "sudden failure". The bridge bearings support the longitudinal and rotational movement, and are critical to load transfer from the superstructure to the substructure, he said. "As of now, we do not see any damage to the structure. The bearing will have to be replaced," he said.

Asked whether it was in order for a bearing to malfunction a little over two decades of commissioning, Mr. Sambyal said, there could be 'jerks', heavy vehicle traffic, and any number of factors including wear and tear. The displacement of the flyover would be reversed through hydraulic jacks. But, before that, the NHAI team would wait for 48 hours to see whether there was any structural safety issue. "First, we will restore light-vehicle traffic, and it may take a month for normal traffic to be restored," Mr. Sambyal said. The Hosur Corporation asked shops and food-carts under the flyover to clear out.

Glut and low prices sour hopes of mango growers in Chittoor, Tirupati districts of A.P.

A.D. Rangarajan
TIRUPATI

Totapuri mangoes dumped by enraged farmers near markets in Tirupati district. In the face of a glut, they find it better to discard the yield rather than sell it. T. VIJAY KUMAR

Notwithstanding the support price of ₹4 a kg announced by the Andhra Pradesh government for growers of the Totapuri mango variety, farmers in the erstwhile undivided Chittoor district, famous for its orchards, stare at bleak returns.

While many of the fruit pulp units still remain closed without enquiries from international players, those that opened their gates to fruit vendors are worried about the consequences of accepting more stock than needed, fearing if they would be biting more than they can chew.

The Chittoor district bifurcation of 2022 has left the new Tirupati district with fewer fruit processing units. As a result, the Tirupati mango growers are also going towards Gangadhara Nellore and Puthalapattu in the neighbouring district.

Without remunerative prices, several farmers who resorted to panic harvesting, much against the government's advice to wait, have dumped their yield in the vicinity of fruit pulp units or near the *mandis*. With a spurt in supply and the resultant fall in prices, and factories expressing reluctance to procure the fruits, the waiting time for the trucks and tractors have gone up, which means an additional rent burden for the farmers.

When the procurement price hovers between ₹3 and ₹4 a kg and not the ₹8 promised by the government, the farmers are forced to dump the yield to at least avoid incurring additional expenditure.

Minister for Agriculture K. Atchannaidu visited the Damalacheruvu market in the Pakala mandal recently to infuse confidence among the farmers, but to no avail.

Tirupati District Collector S. Venkateswar and Joint Collector Shubham Bansal, with horticultural officials in tow, have been visiting the factories, mandis and the ramps, the major procurement points, to ensure that the farmers are not taken for a ride.

High-level meeting marking NDA's one year in office today

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

In a major administrative and political gathering, the NDA government will hold a high-level review meeting titled 'Suparipalana Tholi Adugu' (First step towards good governance) at 4 p.m. on Monday in Amaravati, marking the completion of its first year in office.

The event will take place on a specially constructed stage behind the Velagapudi Secretariat. Postponed earlier due to the Ahmedabad plane crash, the meeting will bring together the full spectrum of the State's governance apparatus – Collectors, Superintendents of Police, HoDs, Secretaries, MLAs, Ministers and MPs from all 26 districts – for a collective review of administrative progress, developmental achievements, and future goals. It will focus on evaluating key welfare initiatives, policy reforms and infrastructure development undertaken in the past year while charting the roadmap for the next four years. With a vision aligned to the ambitious Swarna Andhra @2047 framework, the coalition government aims to rebuild the State's economic, social, and industrial foundation following the setbacks of the previous administration. Plans to generate 20 lakh job opportunities and attract industrial investments will be key topics, according to a press release.

Jagan Mohan Reddy and five others named accused in a hit-and-run case

The Hindu Bureau
GUNTUR

Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and five others have been named as accused in a hit-and-run case, Guntur Range IGP Sarvashresta Tripati and SP S. Satish Kumar said at a press conference here on Sunday. The incident occurred during Mr. Reddy's tour on June 18, for which police had permitted only the former CM's convoy and three cars to travel from Tadepalli to Sattenapalli. When the convoy reached Anjaneya Swamy statue on Etukuru bypass, the police got information about a road accident, they said.

A man, identified as Cheeli Singaiah, was found with severe bleeding injuries and was rushed to a hospital, where he was declared brought dead, the police said. Based on a complaint filed by the deceased's wife, Cheeli Lurdhu Mary, a case was initially registered under BNS Section 106(1).

On reviewing CCTV camera and drone footage, as well as eyewitness accounts, the police confirmed that the victim came under the wheels of Mr. Reddy's vehicle.

The case was reclassified under BNS Sections 105 and 49. Six individuals – Mr. Jagan, his driver Ramana Reddy, and former Ministers Perni Venkataramaiah and Vidadala Rajini, former MP Y.V. Subba Reddy and Mr. Jagan's PA K. Nageswar Reddy – were named as accused. Legal proceedings are under way, the police added.

Kerala to amend rules to spur investments

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The State government is set to amend several rules related to various departments with an aim to spur more investments. The decision comes in the wake of the recent Invest Kerala Global Summit organised by the Industries department. Thirty-one rules and policies related the Departments of Local Self-Government, Revenue, Electricity, Environment, Labour, Agriculture, etc., are expected to be amended.

Actor Vijay Deverakonda booked over 'derogatory comments' on tribal people

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Telugu actor Vijay Deverakonda has been booked under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act by the Raidurgam Police in Hyderabad for allegedly making derogatory remarks against tribal communities during a public event.

'Deeply insulting'

The case was filed based on a complaint by Nenavath Ashok Kumar Naik, president of the Joint Action Committee of Tribal Communities, citing the comments made by the actor on April 26, 2025, during the pre-release event of the film *Retro*.

Vijay Deverakonda

Attaching the YouTube link of the comments in the written complaint, Mr. Naik said these comments were not only offensive but also deeply insulting to the dignity and self-respect of the tribal community.

He said that the content was shared across multiple media channels, including YouTube, via Sithara Entertainment's channel, drawing widespread criticism.

Investigation is under way.

Man of war

Trump has made Israel's war with Iran more dangerous for the region

Donald Trump is no peacemaker. While out of power, he railed against America's "forever wars". He claimed that if he were the President, the Ukraine war would never have started. The Trump base blamed America's globalists for its forever wars. Yet, on Mr. Trump's watch, Israel, Washington's closest ally, began attacking Iran on June 13, even as the U.S. and Iran were still in talks. At first, Mr. Trump and his Secretary of State Marco Rubio stated that America was not involved in the war, and warned Iran against targeting U.S. soldiers or bases in West Asia. Iran did not. Tehran's response was directed solely at Israel, the aggressor. But a week later, when Israel was struggling to intercept Iranian ballistic missiles, American B2 bombers dropped bunker-busting bombs at Fordow, Iran's most heavily fortified nuclear facility, while U.S. submarines fired Tomahawk missiles at the Natanz and Isfahan nuclear plants. This is now unmistakably Mr. Trump's war. He came to power promising peace. And in just six months, he has become a warmonger and a globalist aggressor.

When it comes to wars, the U.S. hardly learns from its mistakes. It invaded Afghanistan in 2001, vowing to destroy al-Qaeda. defeat the Taliban and "democratise" the country. But 20 years later, it handed it back to the Taliban. It invaded (and destroyed) Iraq in 2003, lying that Baghdad possessed weapons of mass destruction. It invaded (and destabilised) Libya in 2011 in the name of protecting Libyans from their government. In the case of Iran, America's intelligence agencies concluded in March that Iran did not have an active weaponisation programme. Iran once signed a nuclear agreement with the U.S. and other major powers and accepted checks on its nuclear programme. It was Mr. Trump who tore up the deal. Iran again joined talks with the U.S., and it was Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's Prime Minister, who destroyed diplomacy this time. This war will have serious consequences for West Asian stability and global order. Major powers will now have less incentives to trust Mr. Trump's overtures for dialogue. Smaller powers will have greater incentives to join the arms race for their own survival. North Korea will never give up its nukes. If Iran's regime survives this storm, it could seek to rebuild its nuclear programme. If it decides to strike American bases, the war could spiral into something more dangerous. Mr. Netanyahu's unchecked militarism, which is in part aimed at protecting his hold on power at home, has plunged the region into a deep security abyss. Mr. Trump has made it catastrophically worse by turning Israel's war into America's war. Darker days lie ahead for West Asia.

Compensating theft

News publishers must have legal protection from AI systems

Large language artificial intelligence models are fuelled by content on the Internet, and much of this content comprises news reports gathered, curated and published by media professionals and organisations with decades of experience. As creative industries reckon with their labour getting diffused into unaccountable clusters of graphics processing units that reproduce styles and spit out human-level artwork in mere seconds, the news industry has reason to fear the compounding of permissionless innovation into an existentially threatening heist of several lifetimes of work. Previous waves of digitisation peeled away captive audiences from print and broadcast media by replacing these with a web-charged attention economy, and Big Tech platforms further squeezed news media's place in these rapid transformations by often short-changing the very sources of information that their businesses relied on to be useful to the public. In a landscape where even precarious business models in the Internet age are threatened by a reluctance to pay for news and declining public trust in professional news-gathering, AI may very well be a body blow. It is clear: AI firms, with their billions in market capitalisation, must not be permitted to just take what they want from the Internet, synthesise these inputs into monetised insights, and pretend that the whole process is a form of victimless, innovative progress. Publishers have a clear right to decide who gets to hoover up their entire corpuses, and to ensure that their businesses benefit from the AI wave. To this end, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade's committee on copyright and AI is a welcome step.

This is not a decelerationist, or "decel" demand, as those who advocate for rapid AI development might be quick to say. The news industry has fought as search giants and social media companies profited enormously on the back of its content and set the terms for how the financial benefits flowed back to it. That cannot be permitted to happen – as social media platforms turn more and more into video-focused walled gardens, discouraging even a step outside their apps. For the news organisations, the avenues to earn are shrinking. As AI-generated overviews of news content with source links are reduced to a footnote, it is time for compensation to be negotiated at the time of publishers' content being scraped from their websites in the first place. AI firms may claim "fair use" in model training, but there is nothing fair – morally or legally – about accessing and disseminating troves of news without taking the creators and processors into confidence. News publishers and policymakers must now fight for their share in the AI era.

Lessons from Operation Sindoor's global outreach

Shashi Tharoor

is the fourth-term Lok Sabha Member of Parliament (Congress) for Thiruvananthapuram, a former Minister of State for External Affairs and the award-winning author of 27 books, including 'Pax Indica: India and the World of the 21st Century' and most recently, 'Our Living Constitution'

The aftermath of the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, and India's resolute response through "Operation Sindoor", presented a critical juncture for our nation's foreign policy. While the immediate military action was decisive, the subsequent diplomatic outreach was equally, if not more, vital in shaping global perceptions and consolidating international support. Leading one of the seven all-party parliamentary delegations to five countries in the Western Hemisphere – Guyana, Panama, Colombia, Brazil and the United States – offered me a unique vantage point to reflect on the lessons learned from this intensive period of public diplomacy.

Unity behind a strong voice

One of the most striking takeaways is the power of national unity in projecting a strong foreign policy voice. The very composition of our delegations, featuring Members of Parliament (MPs) from diverse political parties, different States and varied faiths, was a potent message in itself. It underscored that when it comes to national security and confronting terrorism, India speaks with one voice. This transcended domestic political differences, imbuing our message with greater credibility and gravitas in the eyes of our international interlocutors. Whether engaging with the President of Guyana or the U.S. Vice-President, the collective resolve of India, represented by its varied political spectrum, resonated deeply.

Our primary objective was to provide clarity on "Operation Sindoor" – its rationale, the targeted nature of India's initial strikes against terrorist infrastructure, its calibrated and measured nature, and its avoidance of any harm to civilians and even to Pakistani military facilities. We meticulously explained that India's actions were a legitimate exercise of self-defence, a necessary response to persistent cross-border terrorism. The success of this narrative was evident in the shift witnessed in several capitals. For instance, Colombia's retraction of its initial statement expressing condolences for supposed civilian casualties in Pakistan and its subsequent reaffirmation of support for India's sovereign right to self-defence was a significant diplomatic victory, directly attributable to our detailed and persuasive engagements. This demonstrated that facts, patiently and persistently presented, can overcome initial misunderstandings or even deliberate misinformation.

A parallel, and equally crucial, aspect of our outreach was to underscore Pakistan's continued links to terrorism. We consistently highlighted the severity of the threat emanating from across our borders, aiming to build global consensus on holding perpetrators accountable. The engagements in Washington DC were particularly illuminating in this regard. Even as a Pakistani delegation was simultaneously present, we found U.S. representatives, including those who met the Pakistani officials, echoing our concerns and urging decisive action against terror groups such as the Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed. This confirmed that our arguments, grounded in verifiable facts and consistent advocacy, were cutting through the noise and reinforcing the legitimacy of India's position.

Beyond the immediate crisis management, the tour served as a powerful reminder of the enduring relevance of soft power diplomacy. The very name "Operation Sindoor" proved evocative, its cultural resonance helping to explain the depth of the outrage and the resolve it represented. From the widespread embrace of yoga to the global appeal of Bollywood, India's traditions offer a unique pathway to connecting with diverse audiences. It is a compelling reminder that our cultural heritage is not merely for domestic consumption; it is a powerful tool in our diplomatic toolkit, capable of evoking interest and fostering understanding far beyond geopolitical considerations.

> The intensive period of public diplomacy affirmed that India, when united, can project its voice with clarity and conviction on international platforms

The 'T's' and Indian strategy

Tradition is one of the three "T's" that I believe should drive India's future global strategy: tech, trade, and tradition all go together in promoting the new India to the world. While India's prowess in IT services is well-established, the next frontier lies in technological products and innovation in the age of Artificial Intelligence. Our diplomatic efforts must actively promote Indian technological breakthroughs and foster collaborative innovation with international partners. This is not just about economic growth; it is about showcasing India as a source of solutions and ingenuity, a nation that contributes meaningfully to global progress. Similarly, trade remains vital to our economic development and global standing. In an increasingly competitive world, particularly in comparison to China, India must proactively expand its trade volumes and diversify its trade basket.

Diplomatic outreach must therefore seamlessly blend security concerns with economic opportunities, creating mutually beneficial partnerships. One of my key messages was that India is focused on its growth and development and considers terrorism and war an avoidable distraction; all we want from Pakistan is to be left alone to serve our people. But if they hit us, we will hit back: we are determined to make them pay a price for each assault. Equally, if they desist, we have no desire for conflict. Peace is what allows us to prosper.

The tour also brought to the fore the importance of proactive and consistent public diplomacy. Every country we went to welcomed our visit and urged India to send its MPs more often. In addition to public representatives, lawmakers and government leaders, we spoke extensively with think-tankers, influential policy-shapers and national media. The media coverage we garnered, and the quality of the dialogue with foreign policy experts, demonstrated the appetite for India's perspective. This underscores the critical need for intensive engagement with western and mainstream media. A narrative vacuum is easily filled by misinformation, and our consistent presence in global media landscapes is essential to counter false narratives and ensure our story is told accurately and persuasively. This is something we could do better.

Furthermore, the visits to countries such as Panama and Guyana, both current non-permanent members of the UN Security Council (UNSC), alongside Colombia, which anticipates a UNSC tenure in 2026, highlighted the strategic imperative of nurturing relationships with a broad spectrum of nations. Panama's explicit support for India's candidature for a permanent seat on the UNSC, articulated by Foreign Minister Javier Martínez Acha, is a testament to the value of direct engagement and the cultivation of long-term diplomatic ties. These are the partners who can amplify India's voice on crucial global platforms.

Guiding principles

Looking ahead, several actionable recommendations emerge from this experience. We must continue to elevate diplomatic outreach in South and Central America, including reciprocal VVIP visits and augmenting the diplomatic strength of our Missions with greater language proficiency. At the multilateral level, the External Affairs Minister should consider engaging with the UN Secretary-General and UN General Assembly President to specifically address the terrorism issue, ensuring comprehensive briefings to UN representatives and engaging directly even with the sceptics among the UN press corps. Strengthening ties with Brazil, particularly through the Prime Minister's participation in the upcoming BRICS summit and a state visit, remains a high priority given President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's emphasis on the importance he attaches to his relationship with India. And, crucially, India must ramp up its engagements in Guyana to safeguard India's strategic interests in its newly discovered oil resources and burgeoning infrastructure sector

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's energy, dynamism and willingness to engage remains a prime asset for India on the global stage, but deserves greater backing. The diplomatic outreach following "Operation Sindoor" was a moment of national resolve and effective communication. It affirmed that India, when united, can project its voice with clarity and conviction on international platforms. The lessons learned – the power of unity, the efficacy of clear communication, the strategic value of soft power, and the imperative of sustained public diplomacy – will undoubtedly serve as guiding principles as India navigates an increasingly complex international landscape, leveraging its three Ts and always striving for a more just, secure, and prosperous world.

Steering the Indian economy amidst global troubles

Harsha Vardhan Agarwal

is President, The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)

The global economy is undergoing a significant transformation, marked by shifts in trade policies and continuing geopolitical tensions. We see a return of trade wars, the review of tariffs by countries as well as a surge in negotiations for bilateral trade agreements. These have led to heightened uncertainties, impacting not just trade but also financial markets and economic growth prospects.

With global trade dynamics evolving rapidly, it could lead to a structural realignment of global trade with long-term implications for trade and investments. Businesses will have to weigh the short-term challenges as well as long-term opportunities. Industry has to re-strategise amid rising costs, disrupted supply networks, and asymmetric information. The United States is India's largest export destination accounting for nearly one-fifth of India's merchandise exports. Therefore, uncertainties in the tariff regime in this market severely impact the business of Indian exporters. For certain sectors such as marine, apparel, carpets, gems and jewellery, pharmaceuticals, auto components, and electronics, India's dependence on the U.S. market is very high. Additional tariffs would erode margins of these exporters, particularly Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)s and make their exports unviable.

Possible issues

However, the imposition of the U.S.'s reciprocal tariffs itself remains uncertain given the possibility of interim deals and trade agreements that the U.S. is negotiating with many countries (including India) and also the recent order of the U.S. Court of International Trade challenging the imposition of reciprocal tariffs. Under such uncertain scenarios, one cannot even accurately assess whether Indian exporters will get any relative tariff advantage *vis-à-vis* competing countries such as China, Bangladesh or Vietnam that was considered a high probability in the initial assessment when reciprocal tariffs were announced. Experts and economists have highlighted that the direct impact of these tariffs (if implemented) on the Indian economy is expected to be limited due to India's resilient external economy, particularly rising contribution of services exports, high remittances, adequate forex reserves and low current account deficit. However, the uncertainties surrounding the tariffs are detrimental for exporters planning new orders and also their impact on decision making. In addition, there is a risk of increased threat of dumping into India by China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations looking to redirect their surplus production.

> Industry needs to re-strategise amidst rising costs, disrupted supply networks and asymmetric information

Medium- to long-term opportunity

Despite the global headwinds, India stands to benefit with the right strategy. The global restructuring of trade offers India an opportunity to become an integral part of the renewed global supply chains. India needs a three-pronged strategy – to manage external shocks; to ensure domestic economic resilience and to leverage a window of opportunity to enhance its global exports. These key policy actions can be considered. First, India has taken a proactive approach by engaging early in Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) negotiations with the U.S. Being the first to conclude such an agreement could give India a first-mover advantage. The BTA must be crafted to ensure zero tariffs on sectors critical to India's interests, while cautiously opening up areas without compromising national priorities. India's service exports to the U.S. remain robust and it must be ensured that these are not impacted. Liberalisation of tariffs with the U.S. should be approached on a strictly bilateral basis. Addressing non-tariff barriers (NTBs) will be critical. Possibilities of mutual recognition agreements must be explored. A swift yet balanced trade deal will be key.

Second, the conclusion of an FTA with the U.K. is a huge positive. India must now pursue other key FTAs with equal vigour. The early conclusion of an FTA with the European Union , Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement with Australia and other important partners will offer Indian exporters enhanced market access in alternative markets.

Third, strengthening import monitoring mechanisms becomes important in wake of a greater risk of dumping into India. Trade remedial measures should be deployed swiftly to protect domestic industries from economic damage.

Fourth, sustaining public capital expenditure is vital in maintaining growth momentum amid global headwinds. Continued public capex will ensure that the domestic economy remains resilient and also help to crowd-in private investments over the medium term.

Fifth, monetary policy should continue to remain accommodative. With inflation currently under control and projected to be lower in coming quarters, further rate cuts by the Reserve Bank of India will help propel growth.

Sixth, anchor potential foreign investments across sectors looking to diversify their supply chains from China, Vietnam and other countries. A focused approach would be required to target global companies to set up shop in India.

Expedite reforms

Finally, work towards next generation reforms and regulatory reforms – as proposed in the last two Union Budgets – must be expedited. Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes must be expanded to include other potential sectors (e.g., hearables and wearables, IoT devices, battery raw materials). These will help scale up manufacturing, attract investment in critical sectors, and build self-reliance.

While global uncertainties pose undeniable challenges, they also offer an opportunity for India to emerge as a global manufacturing hub and be an integral part of the global supply chains. Through strategic trade negotiations and structural reforms, India can weather the storm and emerge stronger.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lighting the fuse

The latest U.S. strikes on Iran's nuclear facilities — at Fordow, Natanz and Isfahan — mark a perilous turn in the already volatile Israel-Iran theatre. By openly inserting itself into the fray, the United States, under President Donald Trump, may have momentarily disabled Iran's nuclear ambitions, but it has also lit the fuse of wider regional conflagration. There are hints of a new Cold War–style polarity. While Iran's stubborn strategic calculus merits scrutiny, President Trump's bellicose language and maximalist posture risk pushing diplomacy off the table. The world, weary from war, cannot afford another theatre of destruction. India, with its historic ties and energy stakes, must press for restraint and renewed multilateralism at every forum.

Gopalaswamy J.,
Chennai

Corrections & Clarifications

The Brahmaputra is called the Jamuna in Bangladesh, and not Yamuna, as mentioned in the report, "Sowing seeds of mistrust in Assam" ('Ground Zero' page, June 21, 2025).

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name.

Recognising Adivasi identity in the Census

Brinda Karat
Senior member of the CPI(M)

The much-delayed gazette notification for the Census which is to be held in 2027, has been rightly criticised for a lack of clarity on the promised caste enumeration. But there is hardly any discussion on the long-standing demand of Adivasi/Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities that their distinct identities, including systems of faith, be recognised as part of the Census.

The Census includes the religious demography of India through the registration of a person's religious beliefs. The religions mentioned are Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Jainism, and Buddhism. For those with other beliefs, there is a general column titled 'Other Religious Persuasion' (ORP). There is no column for the beliefs of STs. This omission is unconstitutional on several counts.

An unconstitutional move

The Constitution has specific provisions for the protection of the beliefs, customs, and traditions of STs, such as those reflected in the Fifth and Sixth Schedules. In addition, Articles 371A and 371B have specific protections for customary laws and practices in Nagaland and Assam, respectively. Article 25 ensures the right to profess, practice, and propagate one's faith, and Article 26 guarantees the right to manage religious affairs. For STs, these rights must translate into recognition of distinct faith-based beliefs and practices centred on nature worship and ancestral traditions, in every general legal and policy framework, including the Census. The restriction in the Census to six religions or the ambiguous ORP category violates the spirit of Article 25 as it compels STs to misidentify with mainstream faiths or be relegated to a catch-all category, which is the ORP.

This misidentification is reflected in the 2011 Census data. The ST population was counted as 10.43 crore (8.6% of the then population of 120 crore). If we look at the ORP column in Table C-01 of the 2011 Census, only 0.66% of the population (or 79 lakh people) registered themselves under ORP, which means that the large majority of ST communities could not register their religious or spiritual identity and had to misidentify with other religions. This is unfair and unjust.

> There is no column in the Census for the beliefs of Adivasis. This omission is unconstitutional.

The majority of Adivasis live in rural habitats and have little information about the meaning of the ORP choice. It is only where ST organisations have provided information regarding registration of specific faiths under ORP that the numbers of ORP go up. This is found in a breakdown of ORP provided in the appendix to the Census tables. In Jharkhand, where there have been Sarna-based mobilisations, the registration specifically in the name of Sarna under ORP was the highest of any State (49 lakh). In some parts of Madhya Pradesh where the mobilisation of the Gonds is significant, over 10 lakh individuals registered as Gond faith in the ORP column. In other words, where information breaks the obfuscation of the ORP column, ST communities prefer to register their own faiths.

The issue gains importance because of the reality of a changed political context affecting Adivasi rights. In the last few years, RSS-affiliated groups have targeted Christian missionaries and Christian converts among STs. Intensified attacks and ghar wapasi events are well known. Under the Modi government, RSS groups have strengthened the narrative that the "vanvasis (forest dwellers)" are historically part of the Greater Hindu Family. These are new forms of Hinduisation of ST communities. The power of the state has been used to co-opt and coerce sections of traditional tribal chiefs. The strategy is to realign ST rituals with Hindu practices, introduce slogans celebrating Hindu gods among traditional chants, build Hindu temples in ST areas, take soil from sacred ST groves for the building of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, and so on. ST children studying in Eklavya Model Residential Schools are taught more about Hindu customs, hymns, and festivals than their own traditions. There is no dearth of funds for the expansion of RSS-run schools in poor ST areas. Corporate Social Responsibility funds from well known corporates are easily available. This is a well thought out plan to build an overarching Hindutva identity among STs as part of the core agenda of the RSS.

This also reveals the utter hypocrisy of the RSS and its actual contempt for ST identity and culture. It demands that Adivasis who convert to Christianity should be stripped of their recognition as STs, as, according to them, only allegiance to Adivasi religion and beliefs should determine whether the individual is ST or not. Yet STs who practise Hindu rituals or identify themselves as Hindu are still eligible for recognition as STs. The constitutional and legal view is that recognition of a community as ST is linked to several other factors, not religious affiliation.

The entire centralisation and homogenisation of the 'one nation, one culture' project of the current regime negatively affects Adivasi communities. Among the 700 communities recognised as ST, there is both commonality and diversity. India's diversity is in fact well represented by ST groups who embody a rich mosaic of cultural, linguistic, and spiritual diversity. Adivasis have been pushing back against new forms and methods of assimilation. The demand for recognition of their faiths in the Census is one such form of resistance.

Need for a separate column

In November 2020, the Jharkhand government unanimously passed a resolution seeking the inclusion of Sarna as a separate religion in the 2021 Census. The BJP did not dare oppose this. It was sent to the Centre for approval and inclusion and did not get a response. The resolution is as relevant today. However, since the issue is not limited to only one State or to one Adivasi belief, a separate column in the Census should be added titled 'Adivasi/ST faiths'. ST faiths will then be at a par with the other six major religions. All political parties should put pressure on the government for such inclusion to strengthen democracy and the constitutional rights of Adivasis.

Of two contesting models of social justice

The NDA and INDIA bloc have two different yet overlapping social justice models

STATE OF PLAY

Badri Narayan

Recently, in village in Bhojpur district, Bihar, which is dominated by Most Backward Castes (MBC), I heard a sohar (birth song) sung by a few unlettered women. It goes, "*Babua hamar DM hoyihe, okara upar CM hoyihe* (My son will become a District Magistrate and he will also become Chief Minister)". I also heard a slogan during a political rally in Sasaram town, which goes, "*Vote se lenge CM, PM, Aarakshan se lenge Collector, DM* (I will become Chief Minister with votes and District Magistrate with reservation)". Both these expressions reflect aspirations for social justice. They also show how the aspirations of backward communities becomes the essence of their politics. Together, these anecdotes illustrate how social justice is the driving force in grassroots development and politics in Bihar.

In north India, for several centuries, the Bhakti movement challenged social hierarchies and promoted equality and inclusivity. But the road to social justice has nevertheless been long and fraught. Leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi, B.R. Ambedkar, Mahatma Phule, and Ram Manohar Lohia have had their own visions and versions of social justice; these various imaginations continue to co-exist in India.

While in most parts of India, the social justice discourse remains mostly centred around Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, in Bihar the most dominant social justice discourse is of Other Backward Classes (OBCs). According to the Bihar caste survey of 2023, OBCs and Extremely Backward Classes comprise more than 63% of State's population.

This is not new – Bihar politics has always been largely dominated by OBC politics. OBC communities, particularly the Yadavs, Kurmis, and Koirees, began emerging as lower and middle peasants due to various land-based reforms implemented in both pre-independent and independent India. The leaders of these three communities formed the Triveni Sangh in 1934 and began asserting their voice for political representation. Other leaders echoed the aspirations of OBC communities in later years as well. Apart from the OBC social justice discourse, Bihar has other social justice models, which can be loosely categorised as Gandhian, Congressi, Nehruwadi, Ambedkarite, Lohiyaite, and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led social justice model (*samgra samajik nyay* model).

Bihar is set to go to polls later this year. I have found during my fieldwork that the contest is set to take place primarily between two models. The first is the social justice model crafted by selective interpretations of the views of Ambedkar and Lohia. It emphasises caste-based historical inequality. The propagators of this model are Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. The RJD and Congress are part of the Mahagathbandhan. This model appears to be unilinear as it focuses on the demand for a caste census and the extension of reservations.

The second is the samgra samajik nyay model. It combines the arguments of caste-based historical inequality with other forms of horizontal social inequalities that emerged during the process of distribution of democratic resources. The BJP, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, promotes this model, which combines the visions of Swami Vivekananda, Deendayal Upadhyaya, and Ambedkar. In Mr. Modi's book *Samajik Samrasata*, we may find the traces of the evolution of this model of social justice. This model combines historical injustices with developmental injustices. It tries to address vertical and horizontal injustices faced by marginal communities. Social justice appears to be a multi-pronged strategy to counter backwardness of various forms. Countering caste-based injustice is tied to beneficiary politics, which refers to the use of government welfare programmes and benefits for targeted communities. Beneficiary politics emerged through the implementation of various social support schemes for backward castes, Dalits, Adivasis, and women.

Thus, both the alliances have two different yet overlapping social justice models. The difference is that the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance has a few advantages. Both Mr. Modi and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar enjoy a positive image. On the other hand, the Mahagathbandhan is represented by Mr. Lalu Prasad, whose regime was perceived as corrupt. The image of Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav as a popular youth leader does not seem to have served as a counter-balance yet. And the benefit of the caste census, which the RJD-led Opposition was advocating, has been minimised by the Union government's announcement of a caste enumeration in the Census.

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India trails in critical tech, particularly semiconductor tech

The U.S. and China lead across five critical tech sectors: semiconductors, AI, biotechnology, space and quantum

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

A new global index has been launched to assess how 25 countries perform across five technology sectors: AI, biotechnology, semiconductors, space, and quantum. India lags significantly behind the top three – U.S., China, and Europe – across most technology sectors.

Developed using public and commercial data, the Critical and Emerging Technologies Index allows policymakers to explore each country's relative strengths and weaknesses across these sectors.

To reflect strategic importance, the sectors were assigned default weights: semiconductors (35%), AI (25%), biotechnology (20%), space (15%), and quantum (5%). These were based on six criteria, such as geopolitical relevance and dual-use potential. **Chart 1** shows the overall index scores of all the countries. India with a score of 15.2 is below France and above Russia, Canada and Australia.

The U.S. leads in all five sectors, powered by deep investments, a strong research workforce, and a decentralised innovation ecosystem spanning government, academia, and industry. Its dominance is most pronounced in AI, semiconductors, and space.

China is closing the gap, especially in biotechnology and quantum. China is backed by centralised planning, scale, and state-led investments. It still lags in semiconductors and advanced AI due to dependence on foreign tools and weaker private research.

Europe ranks third overall, showing strength in biotech and quantum but falling behind in semiconductors and space.

U.S. partnerships with Europe, Japan, and South Korea enhance its position, particularly in quantum and chips. However, no country has full control over the semiconductor supply chain. While the U.S. holds a clear lead in AI, China's advantage in data and talent, along with model breakthroughs, signals a tightening race.

Chart 1 also shows the individual scores of each country in these sectors. The AI analysis is based on eight pillars, with the highest weight given to funding and talent. Technical factors such as algorithms, computing power, and data also play a key role, while regulation and global influence are included with lower weight. The U.S. leads this by a huge margin, followed by China and Europe.

The biotechnology analysis is based on nine pillars, with the highest weight given to human capital, funding, and core capabilities such as pharmaceutical production, genetic engineering, and vaccine research.

The semiconductor analysis uses eight pillars, with the highest weight given to chip design, funding, talent, and manufacturing. Other factors such as equipment, materials, and regulations are weighted lower as they play supporting roles. Taiwan, Japan and South Korea rank higher than Europe in this indicator.

The space analysis is based on 10 pillars, with the highest weight given to funding, talent, and defence assets. Key operational areas such as launch capability, navigation, and telecom are weighted slightly lower, while global influence and regulation receive the least weight. Russia is placed third in this indicator, and India seventh.

The quantum analysis uses eight pillars, with the highest weight given to funding, talent, and core technologies. Policy, global influence, and security are weighted lower.

Assessing the global tech race
The data for the chart was sourced from the 'Critical and Emerging Technologies Index' published by the Harvard Kennedy School - Belfer Centre for Science and International Affairs

CHART 1: The chart assesses the national power of countries across key technology sectors such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Biotechnology, Semiconductors, Space, and Quantum

	AI	Biotechnology	Semiconductors	Space	Quantum	Total
United States	22.7	17.2	26.4	13.8	4.2	84.3
China	14.5	16.8	22.1	8.4	3.8	65.6
Europe	11.6	11.6	8.3	6	3.6	41
Japan	3.3	4.7	10.5	3.3	2	23.8
South Korea	3.5	3.4	9.4	2.5	1.2	20
United Kingdom	4.7	4.6	3.8	3.7	2.4	19.1
Germany	4.7	4.3	3.8	3.6	2.2	18.6
Taiwan	2	1.7	10.1	1.6	0.6	16
France	4.6	3	1.9	3.8	2	15.3
INDIA	3.9	4	2.4	3.6	1.3	15.2
Russia	2	2.7	1.1	6.3	1.2	13.4
Canada	3.5	3.6	1.5	1.9	2.1	12.6
Australia	2.8	3.8	1.2	2.7	1.1	11.6
Italy	2.8	2.6	1.8	3.2	0.9	11.4
Netherlands	2.6	2.3	2.2	2.6	1.5	11.1
Spain	2.6	2.9	1.5	2.3	0.9	10.2
Singapore	2.8	1.7	2.6	1.1	0.8	9
Brazil	1.8	3.2	1.7	1.5	0.2	8.4
Israel	2.1	2	1	2.2	1	8.2
U.A.E	2.2	1.4	1	0.9	0.4	5.8
New Zealand	1.7	1.9	0	1.5	0.2	5.3
Turkey	1.7	1.8	0.1	1.6	0.2	5.3
Saudi Arabia	2.2	1.2	0.1	1.2	0.2	4.9
Iran	1.1	1.2	0.4	1.7	0.3	4.6
Ukraine	0.9	1.1	0	0.8	0	2.8
North Korea	0	0	0	0.8	0	0.8

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 23, 1975

Heavy monsoon rain in Kerala: 10,000 evacuated

Trivandrum, June 22: With no let-up in the heavy monsoon rain, about 10,000 persons have had to be evacuated from low-lying areas in the four Malabar districts to places of safety. Vehicular traffic has been disrupted in several places.

Heavy rain is forecast in the next two days also. The Kozhikode District Collector has been authorised by the State Government to undertake flood relief measures on the same scale as last year.

Widespread rain was reported in Ernakulam and Trichur districts to-day, but of slightly less intensity than yesterday. Loading and unloading operations at the Cochin harbour were dislocated on account of the heavy downpour.

Landslips have occurred in Idikki district with the Periyar, Kaliar and Muvattupuzha rivers in spate.

Chief amounts of rainfall in different centres are: Kasargod (24 cm), Calicut (11 cm), Malappuram (eight cm), Alleppy and Punalur (nine cm each) and Cranganore and Trivandrum (seven cm each).

Kasargod experienced heavy rain for the last three days and large areas of newly planted paddy fields are under water. High velocity winds uprooted coconut and arrecanut trees. The tiled roofs of a number of houses were blown off.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 23, 1925

Military education for Indian youths

Simla, June 22: A Press Communique issued by the Government of India says: "In the Legislative Assembly on the 14th March last, in the course of the general discussion on the Budget, Sir Alexander Muddiman gave an undertaking that the Government of India would consider the appointment of a Committee to examine the means of attracting the best qualified Indian youths to a military career and of giving them suitable military education, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State. The Government of India now have definitely decided to appoint such a committee.

From Page One

Iranian parliament votes to close Strait of Hormuz

According to the report, which cited Esmaeil Kowsari, a member of the Majlis, the final decision on the closure of the Strait of Hormuz lies with Iran's Supreme National Security Council.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, about 20% of global liquid petroleum travelled through the Strait of Hormuz in 2024, with the trend continuing in the first quarter of 2025.

India imports about 80% of its oil requirement, meaning that disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz will likely impact the price of oil that India purchases. The Strait of Hormuz is also a vital trade route for ships travelling to and from India.

Petroleum Minister Hardeep Puri, however, was quick to downplay the impact on India.

"We have been closely monitoring the evolving geopolitical situation in the Middle East since the past two weeks," Mr. Puri posted on X. "Under the leadership of PM @narendramodi Ji, we have diversified our supplies in the past few years and a large volume of our supplies do not come through the Strait of Hormuz now."

"Our Oil Marketing Companies have supplies of several weeks and continue to receive energy supplies from several routes," he added. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure stability of supplies of fuel to our citizens."

Soon after Israel attacked Iran, *The Hindu* reported on June 13 that disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz would lead to a 40-50% increase in shipping costs and a 15-20 day increase in shipping times.

NIA arrests two men for 'harbouring' terrorists

Twenty-six people were killed and 16 were injured in the terror attack in Pahalgam. The incident brought India and Pakistan close to war. At least 10 houses of suspects were also dismantled in the Kashmir Valley.

The Jammu & Kashmir Police had also released the sketches of three suspects. The police announced a reward of ₹20 lakh for those who provide information about their whereabouts.

According to the police, Adil Hussain Thoker, a resident of Anantnag, and Ali Bhai alias Talha Bhai and Hasim Musa alias Suleiman of Pakistan were involved in the terrorist attack on civilians in Pahalgam's Baisaran meadow.

Thoker, according to the police records, exfiltrated into Pakistan or Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in 2018. The Thoker-led group was believed to be active for the past one year in the region.

'Infra deficiencies hit organ transplants'

Many institutions, including several All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), lacked in-house Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) cross-matching laboratory facilities. The dependency on external laboratories was causing significant delays and logistical challenges in the transplantation process. Several government hospitals had stated that their current facilities required substantial logistical and infrastructural upgrades to meet the standards necessary for performing complex transplant procedures.

The report compiled by the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation, which convened the meeting, said the shortage of specialised faculty coupled with frequent transfer of trained personnel, was disrupting the continuity and establishment of transplant programmes. A major bottleneck was the scarcity of dedicated and trained transplant surgeons, nephrologists, urologists, anaesthetists, neurosurgeons/neurologists and intensivists within the government hospitals.

Experts representing various government institutions in different States flagged issues relating to delays in obtaining formal approval and constitution of the BSD Committees, which was essential to initiate deceased organ donation programme. The handling of medico-legal cases, particularly involving trauma patients who represented the largest pool of potential donors, was often cumbersome and lacked a streamlined process.

Burden on patients

On the paucity of funds, the report said some hospitals had reported inadequate funds to initiate or restart specialised transplant programs, such as lung transplantation, which necessitated expensive equipment and preservatives. A significant concern was the high cost of immunosuppressant drugs, which patients must take for life. The financial support available under current schemes was often limited to the first year, imposing a substantial burden on patients thereafter.

It was highlighted that there were no formal incentives for transplant and organ donation teams (surgeons, nurses, coordinators etc) on a case-by-case basis. Such incentives could motivate them to increase the number of transplants. The non-inclusion of liver and heart transplantation and the associated lifelong follow-up costs in major Central health schemes like Ayushman Bharat were identified as significant barriers.

The report "strongly recommended that liver and heart transplantation, including the lifelong cost of immunosuppressants for post-transplant recipients, be comprehensively included under the central Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana [AB-PMJAY] scheme".

Family claims man killed in Bijapur not a Maoist

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

The family members of a 38-year-old man killed in an anti-Maoist operation in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur earlier this month have claimed that he was not a Maoist. The family and other residents of Irpagutta village say Mahesh Kudiyam had been working as a cook in a government school for more than a year. The police had declared that Kudiyam was a Maoist with a ₹1-lakh bounty on him.

Kudiyam was among the seven alleged Maoists killed by the security forces in the Indravati National Park area in Bijapur.

Speaking with Bastar Talkies, a Bastar-based YouTube channel, Kudiyam's wife and brothers said the man was not a Maoist. Irma Vela, a resident, told the channel that Kudiyam was just a cook and a peon at the village government school.

His brother said the man had gone to graze his cattle on the day of the encounter. The family shared images of a bank passbook showing transfer of remuneration from the government. While the police acknowledged that Kudiyam had worked as a school cook, they maintained that he was a Maoist.

Anti-Maoist operation won't stop during monsoon: Shah

Home Minister urges Maoists to lay down arms and join the journey of development, reiterating the March 2026 deadline for elimination of Maoism; lauds surrender policy of Chhattisgarh govt.

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said that for the first time, anti-Maoist operations would continue during the monsoon even as he reiterated his appeal that Maoists lay down arms and join the mainstream.

"Every time during the rainy season, Maoists used to get rest, but this time, we will not let them sleep during monsoon and we will move further to achieve the target of 31/3 [2026, to eliminate Maoism]," Mr. Shah said, laying the foundation stone for the National Forensic Science University (NFSU) campus and a Central Forensic Science Lab in Chhattisgarh's Nava Raipur Atal Nagar.

Even as security forces were mounting an aggressive campaign against Left Wing Extremism with sustained operations in the jungles of Chhattisgarh's Bastar region, the rainy season was considered dormant from the point of view of combat because sustained rainfall and floods hamper any action inside dense forests.

No time to rest: Home Minister Amit Shah with Chhattisgarh CM Vishnu Deo Sai during the foundation stone laying of the National Forensic Science University campus in Nava Raipur, Chhattisgarh. PTI

The Home Minister added that all those who laid down their arms and joined the mainstream were welcome and lauded the surrender policy of the Chhattisgarh government led by Vishnu Deo Sai. "Lay down arms and join the journey of development; no need for talks. Just give up armed struggle and join the mainstream," Mr. Shah said, even as he reiterated the March 2026 deadline for the elimination of Maoism in the country.

Virtually inaugurating the temporary campus of the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) and the I-Hub Raipur, both situated in Nava Raipur, Mr. Shah called the occasion a historic day in the journey to modernise and scientifically strengthen the criminal justice system of Chhattisgarh. Alongside the temporary campus of NFSU, the ground-breaking ceremony for the permanent campus and the foundation of a Central Forensic Science Laboratory were also initiated. These institutions are being developed at a total cost of ₹268 crore.

Academic sessions at the temporary campus will commence from 2025-26, offering undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in Forensic Science, Cybersecurity, Psychology, Digital Forensics, and various professional diploma courses.

Later in the evening, Mr. Shah chaired a review meeting on Maoism in Raipur with the top police and administrative officials of Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, and Odisha.

NIA arrests 'CPI(Maoist) member' from Delhi

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Sunday arrested a key accused involved in the attempts to revive a Communist Party of India (Maoist) Northern Region Bureau terror module.

The agency also seized digital devices, including hard drives, pen drives, and mobile phones, as well as other "incriminating" material during a search at the West Delhi house of the accused. He was identified as Vishal Singh, originally from Uttar Pradesh's Mathura.

"Investigations have revealed that the accused, a member of the CPI (Maoist), had delivered a drone to leaders of the banned terror outfit in Chhakarbanda/Panchrukhiya forest area of Bihar to further its anti-national activities. He had imparted technical training to other members of the group and had also attended meetings with its central committee members in Bihar in 2019," the agency said.

The NIA had in August last year arrested another accused, Ajay Singhal, alias Aman, the in-charge of the State Organising Committee, Haryana and Punjab, of the CPI (Maoist), in the case registered in 2023.

Centre engaging with States over use of portal on Waqf assets

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The CEO of the Waqf Board requested the Centre to revisit and ease certain leasing provisions

The Minority Affairs Ministry on Sunday said it has been actively engaging with States and Union Territories to ensure effective implementation of the UMEED portal, mandating that details of all registered Waqf properties across India are to be uploaded within six months.

In line with this effort, the Ministry said, Minority Affairs Secretary Chandra Shekhar Kumar visited Mumbai on June 21 to hold a comprehensive review meeting with the State Secretary, senior officials and Maharashtra State Waqf Board CEO.

This marks his second such visit following a similar review in Bihar last week, it said. During the meeting, Mr. Kumar apprised the officials of the rules to be rolled out shortly to support the statutory requirements of the portal, the statement said.

He also invited suggestions from State authorities to streamline the implementation process.

The Waqf Board CEO requested revisiting certain leasing provisions, to which Mr. Kumar responded sympathetically, reaffirming the Centre's commitment to empowering Waqf Boards.

Chemical factory gutted by massive blaze in Bengal's Barasat; none injured

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

A fire gutted a chemical factory in West Bengal's Barasat area on Saturday. This marks the second massive blaze in Kolkata and its surrounding areas in the past week.

Fire and Emergency Services Minister Sujit Bose said authorities are considering implementing a green corridor system for fire engines following repeated complaints of delayed response from the fire department, which has sparked major backlash from the Opposition.

Over 20 fire engines were rushed to the spot in Barasat's Bamunmora Kadambagachi area, but the highly flammable chemicals inside the factory made firefighting difficult.

Over 20 fire engines were rushed to the scene, but the highly flammable chemicals made firefighting difficult. DEBASISH BHADURI

Multiple explosions were heard as the fire engulfed the entire factory for hours, though no casualties were reported. The fire spread across several godowns in the congested area, and thick black smoke was visible from kilometres away.

Local residents claimed the fire started around 6 p.m. and continued until late into the night.

Traffic on the busy Taki Road came to a standstill for several hours in the evening as emergency services and fire engines rushed to the scene. A large contingent of police and Rapid Action Force (RAF) personnel were also present to control the situation

Local authorities, including the Barasat Sub-Divisional Police Officer and the Additional Superintendent of Police, reached the spot.

"The fire is massive; it takes time to contain such a huge fire. I have spoken to the Fire Minister myself, and there are multiple fire tenders on the spot. We are trying to control the situation," Trinamool Congress MP of Barasat Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, said while visiting the affected area. She said the cause of the fire will be determined after a proper investigation.

A senior fire department official present at the scene said that while the fire was under control, it had not been doused.

India could achieve quantum communication using satellite by 2030, says IIT-Delhi Professor

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

India could be technologically capable of "quantum communication" using satellites in the "next half a decade", Professor Bhaskar Kanseri of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Delhi told *The Hindu* in an interview. His team recently reported an instance of quantum key distribution one kilometre apart – the farthest such transmission in India, without connecting cables.

This, however, would require large teams of well-funded multidisciplinary experts and the involvement of start-ups which are specifically geared towards such ends, Professor Kanseri said.

Safe quantum communication requires enabling a sender and receiver to get "quantum keys", which are made of streams of photons – the carriers of light. Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) employs principles of quantum mechanics: the incompletely understood principles underlying the behaviour of atomic and sub-atomic particles, including photons.

Safe quantum communication requires enabling a sender and receiver to get 'quantum keys'.

While there are a couple of approaches in using QKD, one of them – said to be the most secure but technically harder to implement – uses quantum entanglement. Pairs of photons are naturally 'entangled', in a way that a change in one instantaneously reflects in the other. Applying this to encryption means that even the mere attempt by a potential hacker into a QKD-secured transmission of information becomes apparent to those communicating, thus allowing preventive measures.

While generating such secure keys can be done through physical networks, including fibre optic cables, the goal is to be able to do it in "free-space" or without such intervening wires. This is because the cost of such transmissions using cables rapidly rises once the sender and receiver are hundreds of kilometres apart. Thus the ideal step would be to involve satellites, which can act as an intermediary between any two points even if they are thousands of kilometres apart.

However, using fibre optic cables provides a stable channel for quantum communication which free-space channels do not. Atmospheric disturbances such as turbulence, air flow, pollution, etc., particularly in a city such as the Delhi National Capital Region, made it more "challenging" to demonstrate free-space quantum communication.

"The photon beam of quantum channel diverges and wanders due to these disturbances and results in more errors. Owing to these reasons, the error rates are generally higher than the fibre ones. However, with better beam control and optimisation, there is a scope to reduce these errors," Professor Kanseri said.

China had demonstrated satellite-based quantum communication nearly one decade ago, as they had a head start in quantum communication activities since the early 2000s, he surmised.

As an academic institute, IIT-Delhi's experiments in quantum communication so far were "proof of concept (POC) nature" conducted with a small team of four to five students, he explained.

In 2017 and 2020, researchers at the University of Science and Technology of China, during multiple instances, generated quantum keys involving a satellite and ground stations 1,000 and 1,700-km apart.

Village in U.P. on edge after clash over wedding

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Tension prevailed in Dhakpura village in Etah district of Uttar Pradesh on Sunday after a wedding procession of a Dalit family was obstructed and people were allegedly attacked by some individuals of a dominant caste on Saturday night.

One policeman was injured while trying to control the situation. Dalits alleged of facing threats and inaction by the police.

"We have registered an FIR against both sides and are investigating the matter through video footage. However, the marriage happened peacefully," Gyanendra Pratap Singh, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), told *The Hindu*.

In call with Iran President, Modi calls for immediate de-escalation

PM raises concern over 'recent escalations', reiterates India's call for 'dialogue and diplomacy' as the way forward; ahead of the crucial IAEA's Board of Governors meeting, he thanks Pezeshkian for the safe return of Indian nationals from Iran

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Hours after the U.S. struck three prominent nuclear sites in Iran, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday spoke with the President of Iran, Masoud Pezeshkian, and called for "immediate de-escalation". The remark is the first from India, which is a strategic partner of Iran, after the U.S. bombing.

The two sides have been engaged closely in ensuring the safety of Indian citizens in Iran since the West Asia conflict escalated on June 13. The conversation between the two leaders is significant as it came ahead of an emergency meeting of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, where the U.S. attack on Iran will be the main subject of attention.

"Spoke with President of Iran Dr. Pezeshkian. We discussed in detail about the current situation. Expressed deep concern at the recent escalations. Reiterated our call for immediate de-escalation, dialogue and diplomacy as the way forward and for early restoration of regional peace, security and stability," Mr. Modi stated after speaking with Dr. Pezeshkian.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian in Kazan in 2024 for the BRICS Summit. ANI

Mr. Modi thanked Dr. Pezeshkian for helping India in ensuring the "safe return and repatriation" of Indian nationals from Iran in the last few days, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said. India and Iran maintain close communication on multiple bilateral and multilateral issues, and New Delhi hosted Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi on May 7-8 for the 20th Joint Commission Meeting between India and Iran.

India watching closely

Officials here hinted that they were closely watching the developments in Iran, where the U.S. struck nuclear sites in Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan.

Following the U.S. attacks on the three nuclear sites, the Iranian Foreign Minister called on all UN member states to condemn the U.S. action, and indicated Tehran's changing position on furthering nuclear negotiation with the Western powers.

"Last week, we were in negotiations with the U.S., when Israel decided to blow up that diplomacy. This week, we held talks with the E3 [Germany, the U.K. and France]/EU [European Union] when the U.S. decided to blow up that diplomacy. What conclusion would you draw? To Britain and the EU High Rep, it is Iran which must 'return' to the table. But how can Iran return to something it never left, let alone blow up?" Mr. Araghchi said in a message on his social media handles.

Speaking to *The Hindu* in the above context, officials here indicated they were also studying the developments at the IAEA, which was working with the Iranian government to ensure the nuclear facilities at Natanz, Fordow and Isfahan operated in accordance with safety protocols. India will participate in an emergency meeting of the IAEA's Board of Governors on Monday. According to the UN, the IAEA also monitored "radiation measures" and evaluated emergency preparedness at these sites in Iran, which has been a member of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. India is one of the 35 members of the Board of Governors of the IAEA, which supervises the nuclear domain worldwide.

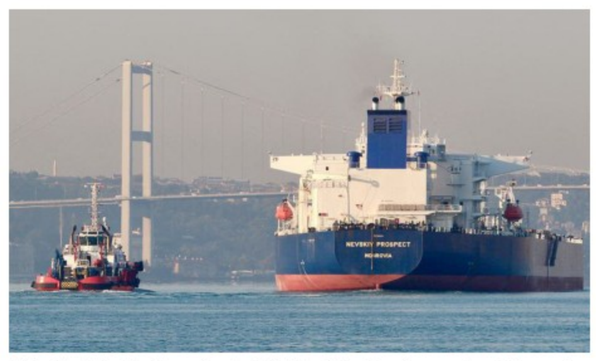
"In view of the increasingly serious situation in terms of nuclear safety and security, the Board of Governors will meet in an extraordinary session tomorrow, which I will address," the IAEA's Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi said in a statement calling for an emergency meeting of the world nuclear body's Board of Governors on Monday.

Iran's appeal

In a message to the international community and members of the UN, Iran's Foreign Ministry on Sunday called upon the UN and its "responsible member states" to "fulfill their responsibilities" in the face of the attack by the U.S.

India ramps up oil imports from Russia and U.S. in June amid instability in West Asia

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI


After the Ukraine invasion in 2022, India's Russian crude oil imports have grown from less than 1% to 40-44% in a short period. REUTERS

India has increased its purchases of Russian oil in June, importing more than the combined volumes from West Asian suppliers such as Saudi Arabia and Iraq, amid market volatility triggered by Israel's attack on Iran. The U.S. military struck three sites in Iran early on Sunday, directly joining Israel, which first struck Iranian nuclear sites on June 13.

Indian refiners are likely to import 2-2.2 million barrels per day of Russian crude oil in June – the highest in the past two years and more than the total volumes bought from Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Kuwait, according to preliminary data from global trade analytics firm Kpler.

India's oil imports from Russia were 1.96 million barrels per day (bpd) in May. Imports from the United States also rose to 4,39,000 bpd in June, a significant jump from 2,80,000 bpd purchased in the previous month. Full-month projections for imports from West Asia stand at around two million bpd, lower than the previous month's buying, according to Kpler.

India, the world's third-largest oil-importing and consuming nation, purchased around 5.1 million barrels of crude oil per day from abroad, which is converted into fuels such as petrol and diesel in refineries.

India, which has traditionally sourced its oil from West Asia, began importing large volumes of oil from Russia soon after the invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. This was primarily because Russian oil was available at a significant discount to other international benchmarks due to Western sanctions and some European countries shunning purchases.

This led to a dramatic rise in India's imports of Russian oil, growing from less than 1% of its total crude oil imports to a staggering 40-44% in a short period.

Sumit Ritolia, Lead Research Analyst, Refining & Modeling at Kpler, said India's import strategy has evolved significantly over the past two years. Russian oil is logistically detached from the Strait of Hormuz, flowing via the Suez Canal, Cape of Good Hope, or Pacific Ocean.

Indian refiners have built refining and payment flexibility, while optimising runs for a wider crude slate. Even U.S., West African, and Latin American flows – though costlier – are increasingly viable backup options.

U.S. strikes a bid to impose imperialist hegemony: Left front

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Left parties on Sunday strongly condemned the U.S. strikes on nuclear sites in Iran, and said the move was a grave violation of Iranian sovereignty and the UN Charter.

"It will inflame global tensions, destabilise West Asia and have severe economic repercussions," said a statement jointly issued by the Communist Party of India (Marxist), Communist Party of India, Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation, Revolutionary Socialist Party and Forward Bloc.

They said the U.S. and Israel are justifying their attacks by claiming that Iran was on the verge of developing a nuclear weapon. However, the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Rafael Grossi, said on June 19 that they did not have any proof of a systematic effort on Iran's part to develop a nuclear weapon.

They added that "the real intention is to destroy Iran, establish imperialist hegemony over West Asia, and control the global flow of resources".

War hits India's diplomatic calendar, Egyptian Minister postpones visit

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Badr Abdelatty

The Israel-Iran conflict cast a shadow on the diplomatic calendar of India on Sunday with Foreign Minister of Egypt Badr Abdelatty, who was expected to reach on Monday, "postponing" his visit.

The Ministry of External Affairs had announced the visit of Mr. Abdelatty on Saturday, but against the backdrop of regional tension, sources said on Sunday that the visit would not take place this week.

Mr. Abdelatty was expected to hold talks with Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar during the visit, but a source said, "The visit of the Foreign Minister of Egypt has been postponed. The advisory issued for the visit may be ignored."

The cancellation of the visit came hours after U.S. President Donald Trump said that a fleet of US B2 bombers carried out raids on the nuclear installations at Fordow, Natanz and Isfahan in Iran.

Mr. Abdelatty has been one of the top regional negotiators, and he has been in consultation with both the Iranian and U.S. decision makers over the past several weeks.

He had hosted Iran's Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi on June 2. On June 3, he met with a multi-party delegation (led by NCP's Lok Sabha MP Supriya Sule) from India that visited Cairo to convey India's concerns about cross-border terrorism from Pakistan.

Mr. Abdelatty was in Istanbul to attend the 51st session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and later, he was scheduled to fly to India.

Indian citizens in Israel who are willing to leave Israel were advised to leave through the Egypt-Israel border. On June 20, a handful of Indian nationals who were in Israel reached Egypt using the Taba land crossing.

'Ties with neighbours can't always be smooth'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has said that one shouldn't always expect a "smooth sailing" when it comes to ties with neighbouring countries. In a session hosted by DD India, he also asserted that New Delhi has tried to create a "collective interest" to build an inherent stability in relationships, irrespective of the regime.

Another flight from Iran brings 311 Indians to Delhi; over 1,400 evacuated so far

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Back home: Indian nationals from Iran arrive in New Delhi on a special flight as part of Operation Sindhu. @MEAINDIA

India on Sunday evacuated more than 300 Indian nationals from Iran amid the escalating tensions between the Persian Gulf nation and Israel following the U.S. bombing of three Iranian nuclear sites. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said 311 Indians landed in Delhi on a special flight from the Iranian city of Mashhad.

With the fresh batch of evacuees, the total number of those brought back from Iran now stands at 1,428. Three-hundred and eleven Indian nationals arrived in New Delhi on a special flight from Mashhad at 4.30 p.m. on June 22, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

India launched Operation Sindhu last week to bring back Indians from Iran and Israel in view of increasing hostilities between the two nations. Israel and Iran have fired hundreds of missiles and drones at each other's cities and military and strategic facilities since the hostilities began over a week ago.

The tensions escalated significantly following the U.S. bombing of three major Iranian nuclear sites on Sunday morning.

India has evacuated its nationals on chartered flights operated from the Iranian city of Mashhad, the Armenian capital of Yerevan and the Turkmenistan capital of Ashgabat since Wednesday. Iran lifted airspace restrictions on Friday to facilitate three chartered flights from Mashhad.

The first flight landed in New Delhi late on Friday with 290 Indians, and the second one landed in the national capital on Saturday afternoon with 310 Indians.

Another flight arrived from the Armenian capital city of Yerevan on Thursday. A special evacuation flight from Ashgabat landed in New Delhi early on Saturday morning.

EC plans intensive checks to update electoral rolls in Bihar

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Amid allegations by Opposition parties over alleged manipulation of voter rolls, the Election Commission of India (EC) on Sunday said it was contemplating intensive house-to-house verification for the revision of electoral rolls before the upcoming Bihar Assembly election.

This approach is being considered as persistent concerns have been raised by various civil society organisations, political parties, and agencies on the inclusion or deletion of names of electors from the rolls, EC sources said.

Opposition parties have time and again flagged concerns over electoral rolls. The Congress alleged discrepancies in electoral rolls during the 2024 Maharashtra Assembly election, and the Trinamool Congress has raised the issue of duplicate Voter ID cards in West Bengal.

In March, the Commission wrote to all political parties, asking them to participate in a meeting to strengthen the election process within the legal framework.

The process of updating electoral rolls was being conducted in accordance with the EC's rules, and sufficient opportunity was being provided to political parties to file objections, a source in the EC said.

In order to make the system robust and free of errors, the EC was contemplating an intensive house-to-house verification process for the revision of electoral rolls before the Bihar Assembly election. Such a rigorous revision has been done in the past as well, the official said, adding that the previous such exercise was undertaken in 2004.

TCED-RDSS-3955/24, 8599/24
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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

On behalf of the **SITARC EV Foundation**, separate sealed tenders for the **TECHNICAL BID** and **COMMERCIAL BID** are invited from reputed firms for the supply, installation, and commissioning of the items listed below.

Item 1 : Fully Automated Electric Vehicle Motor Test System Using Regenerative Type Dynamometer as a Loading Device
Item 2 : Shock / Impact Testing System
Item 3 : Dust Spray Chamber

TENDER SCHEDULE

Tender Notice No : **Item 1: SEVF/TEQ/DYN/2025-26/001**
Item 2: SEVF/TEQ/STS/2025-26/002
Item 3: SEVF/TEQ/DSC/2025-26/004

Description of Tender: **Supply, Installation and Commissioning of System, Instrument & Equipment's.**

	Item 1	Item 2&3
Date of Tender Document Sales Start /Available on the portal	27.06.2025 (10.00 A.M)	01.07.2025 (10.00 A.M)
Date of Tender Document Sales Close	28.07.2025 (5.00 P.M)	31.07.2025 (5.00 P.M)
Last Date for Submission of Tender	28.07.2025 (4.00 P.M)	31.07.2025 (4.00 P.M)
Date of Opening of Technical Bids	29.07.2025 (10.30 A.M)	01.08.2025 (10.00 A.M)
Date of Pre-Bid Meeting	03.07.2025 (10.30 A.M)	08.07.2025 (10.00 A.M)

SITARC EV Foundation intends to select a firm for the supply of the aforementioned items based on the Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) process, as described in detail in the tender document available on the portals **www.sitarc.com** and **www.tendersontime.com under free tender category.**

- The Director

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER-2nd Call (Only through KPP portal)

BWSSB invites TENDERS in Two Stage Tender System from registered agencies for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (Waste Water Management - East), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-09

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(WWM-E)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-1/425/2025-26		Date: 21.06.2025
1	Providing and commissioning biogas engine with scrubber (Standby) at 60 MLD STP, Challaghatta Valley coming under EE(WWM-STP-CV) Division.	Rs. 408.56 Lakh / Rs. 6.13 Lakh
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(WWM-E)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-1/423/2025-26		Date: 21.06.2025
2	Estimate for the various Improvement Works taken up under Jal Hi Amrut scheme at 05 MLD Sarakki STP coming under EE(WWM-STP)K&T Division.	Rs.138.52 Lakh / Rs. 2.07 Lakh
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(WWM-E)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-1/421/2025-26		Date: 21.06.2025
3	Estimate for the various Improvement works taken up under Jal Hi Amrut scheme at 02 MLD Ulsoor STP coming under EE(WWM-STP) K&T Division.	Rs. 121.19 Lakh / Rs. 1.81 Lakh
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(WWM-E)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-1/419/2025-26		Date: 21.06.2025
4	Estimate for the various Improvement works taken up under Jal Hi Amrut scheme at 90 MLD Bellandur Amanikere STP, 35 MLD Agara STP and 10 MLD Hulimavu STP coming under EE(WWM-STP) K&T Division.	Rs. 252.46 Lakh / Rs. 3.78 Lakh

The Last date and time for receipt of completed tenders will be on **07.07.2025 upto 16:00 hrs.** The bids opening is on **08.07.2025 at 17:00 hrs.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (WWM-East)

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-Procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/YC/1396/2025-26

INBRIEF

ONGC makes progress in Assam gas well clean-up

Residents beyond a 500-metre radius of a blowout gas well operated by the ONGC in Assam's Sivasagar district have been advised to return home. This follows a considerable degree of control on RDS-147A, the affected rig in the Rudrasagar area, achieved by experts of the ONGC and a team from the U.S.-based Cudd Pressure Control firm."Approximately 10 trailer loads of rig material have been successfully removed," a statement from the exploration major said on Sunday. The ONGC said continuous air quality monitoring revealed no detectable trace of hydrocarbons beyond 30 metres from the well. The gas pressure in the affected well has also reduced, it added.

U.S. urges citizens to exercise caution while visiting India

The U.S. has issued an advisory for its citizens travelling to India, urging "increased caution" due to crime and rape, and advising them not to travel to certain parts of central and eastern parts of the country due to terrorism. The travel advisory issued last week states that "rape is one of the fastest growing crimes in India" and violent crimes, including sexual assault, happen at tourist sites and other locations. It added that terrorists, who target tourist locations, transportation hubs, markets/shopping malls and government facilities, may attack with little or no warning. It also advised its citizens not to travel to Jammu and Kashmir, except for visits to the eastern Ladakh region and Leh. PTI

Stealth frigate *INS Tamal* to be commissioned on July 1

This will be the last warship of Indian Navy to have been built outside India; it has 26% indigenous components, including the BrahMos long-range cruise missile, and cutting-edge technologies

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

The Indian Navy is all set to commission its latest stealth multi-role frigate, *INS Tamal*, at Kaliningrad in Russia on July 1. This will be the last warship of the Navy to have been built outside India and the eighth in the series of Krivak-class frigates inducted from Russia over the past two decades.

The ceremony will be presided over by Western Naval Commander Vice-Admiral Sanjay J. Singh in the presence of several high-ranking Indian and Russian government and defence officials.

INS Tamal has been built at Yantar Shipyard in Kaliningrad, Russia, and is the last warship to be inducted from a foreign source, in line with the Government of India's impetus on the "Atmanirbhar Bharat" and "Make in India" initiatives.

India, as part of the broader contract for Tushil class, is also building two similar frigates, called the Triput class, at Goa Shipyard Ltd. with transfer of technology and design assistance from the Russian side. By the conclusion of this series of ships, the Navy will be operating 10 ships with similar capabilities and commonality in equipment, weapon, and sensor fit over four different classes.

A class apart: *INS Tushil*, the seventh in the series of Krivak-class stealth frigates, seen during a maritime exercise near the Gulf of Guinea on January 21, 2025. ANI

Packed with features

The 125-metre-long, 3,900-tonne warship features an impressive blend of Indian and Russian cutting-edge technologies and best practices in warship construction. The ship's new design provides it with enhanced stealth features and greater stability characteristics. The number of Made-in-India systems have more than doubled to 33.

The ship has 26% indigenous components, including the BrahMos long-range cruise missile for targeting both at sea and land. It has significant arsenal upgrades compared with its predecessors.

The crew, comprising over 250 personnel, have undergone rigorous ashore as well as afloat training in extremely challenging winter conditions of St. Petersburg and Kaliningrad in Russia.

INS Tamal has successively completed extensive sea trials undertaken over three months, proving its systems, weapons and sensors.

Upon commissioning, *INS Tamal* will join the Western Fleet, the "Sword Arm" of the Indian Navy.

2 held in connection with murder of M.P. man in Meghalaya

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

A Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Meghalaya Police, stationed in Madhya Pradesh to probe the murder of Indore businessman Raja Raghuvanshi, has arrested two more persons in the case.

They were arrested for allegedly helping prime accused Sonam Raghuvanshi, the deceased's wife, and her alleged boyfriend Raj Kushwaha in disposing of evidence.

"The arrested men are Silome James, a property dealer and tenant of a building in Indore's Heera Bagh Colony, where Sonam had stayed after returning from Meghalaya following the murder, and Balvir Ahirwar alias Balla, a security guard of the building," Vivek Syiem, Superintendent of Police of Meghalaya's East Khasi Hills district, told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Syiem said a box belonging to Ms. Sonam that contained multiple items, including jewellery, a laptop, and a firearm allegedly owned by Mr. Kushwaha, was burnt. "The charred remains of the box were found at Indore but [there were] no signs of jewellery, laptop or firearm," he added.

Indore Additional DCP (Crime) Rajesh Dandotiya said that the two accused were arrested in a joint operation of the Meghalaya SIT and Indore Crime Branch, and that the police have been granted a seven-day transit remand.

A source in the Indore Crime Branch said that Mr. James and Mr. Ahirwar are suspected to have "destroyed the evidence together".

Raghuvanshi's decomposed body was found in a deep gorge in Meghalaya on June 2, while his wife, earlier believed to be missing, was arrested from Ghazipur in Uttar Pradesh on June 9. The Meghalaya Police have arrested a total of seven persons in the case, including three friends of Mr. Kushwaha, who were allegedly hired to execute the murder.

No trace: The spot in Indore where the box was allegedly burnt. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Gadgets increase the risk of hearing loss, say experts

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Gadgets, including mobile phones, earphones, headphones, high-volume speakers, and television, increase the risk of hearing loss in youth, experts said on Sunday.

Speaking at a webinar on "Gadgets in ENT", organised by *The Hindu* and Naruvi Hospitals, Vellore, panellists voiced concerns over the effect of modern technology.

"Noise-induced hearing loss is a major neglected public health challenge, and requires advocacy for implementation of behavioural change," Mary Kurien, Professor and Head, Department of ENT, Naruvi Hospital, Vellore, said.

Early symptoms

Dr. Kurien said it was important to identify early symptoms of ENT-related problems, and that listeners should be careful to not use ill-fitting personal audio devices.

Usage of gadgets aside, sometimes, medicines, including antibiotics, antimalarial drugs, diuretics, and cancer medicines; and conditions, including hypertension, diabetes, abnormal cholesterol, obesity, infective meningitis, and measles, could also lead to deterioration in hearing, Dr. Kurien said.

When people used a cotton bud, it could damage the delicate skin of the ear canal, and may cause infection, earache and tinnitus, and they also risked puncturing the eardrum, Sadhana Chandrababu, practitioner in advanced audiology with the Powys Teaching Health Board, National Health Service (NHS), the U.K, said.

People should avoid long exposure to high decibel sounds, Vikram M., ENT consultant, Naruvi Hospital, said.

"If you hear ringing or humming sounds in your ears when you leave work, or you have to shout to be heard by a co-worker at your workplace, realise that noise is a problem in your office and could affect your hearing in the long run," Dr. Vikram said.

The webinar was the 13th in a series of 15 under the "Happy India Healthy India" initiative presented by Naruvi Hospitals in association with *The Hindu*.

DGCA launches comprehensive audit to enhance aviation safety

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has launched a "Comprehensive Safety Audit" to provide a holistic evaluation of the aviation sector by meticulously examining safety, operational efficiency and regulatory compliance.

The aviation regulator's new audit framework is expected to proactively identify systemic vulnerabilities, enhance resilience and ensure strict adherence to the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) and India's national aviation objectives.

The move to strengthen the safety infrastructure comes days after the tragic crash of London-bound Air India flight AI-171 moments after take off in Ahmedabad, killing 241 people on board and about 30 people on the ground on June 12.

The DGCA said that traditionally, regulatory and safety oversight functions within Indian aviation have been conducted in silos, with different directorates performing inspections and audits specific to their respective domains. These activities included planned/unplanned surveillance inspections, random spot-checks and ramp inspections, which primarily assessed compliance and safety within individual aviation.

"In a significant paradigm shift, the Comprehensive Special Audit is designed to transcend existing siloed assessments. This special audit will focus on examining the Safety Management Systems (SMS), operational practices, and regulatory adherence across all aviation domains. The goal is to generate a 360-degree evaluation of the aviation ecosystem, reflecting both its strengths and areas needing improvement," the circular said.

The special audit will supersede existing assessments and aims to get a 360-degree evaluation of the aviation ecosystem

Multidisciplinary teams

The special audit would be conducted by multidisciplinary teams led by a senior DGCA official as the Lead Auditor, supported by specialists from Flight Standards, Air Safety, Airworthiness, Airspace & Air Navigation Services, Licensing, and Aerodrome Standards directorates. The teams would conduct surprise inspections or special audits as and when required.

The audit process would be a combination of techniques, including document and record reviews to verify compliance, on-site inspections of facilities and equipment, structured interviews with management and operational staff, simulation and training, record checks, and safety data trend analysis.

The special audits could be initiated based on mandatory triggers, such as critical safety events (serious incidents or accidents), persistent regulatory non-compliance, operational disruptions etc.

The initiative, the DGCA said, would reinforce India's commitment to a world-class aviation ecosystem.

251 victims of AI plane crash identified

Press Trust of India
AHMEDABAD

At least 251 victims of the June 12 Ahmedabad plane crash have been identified through DNA tests so far and 245 bodies have been handed over to kin, officials said on Sunday.

"Since the process of DNA sample matching is very sensitive and involves legal protocol, it is being completed with seriousness and speed," Ahmedabad Civil Hospital medical superintendent Dr. Rakesh Joshi said.

Meanwhile, the Gujarat police have started shifting the wreckage of the Air India plane that crashed on a medical college hostel in Ahmedabad, to the airport premises here, officials said.

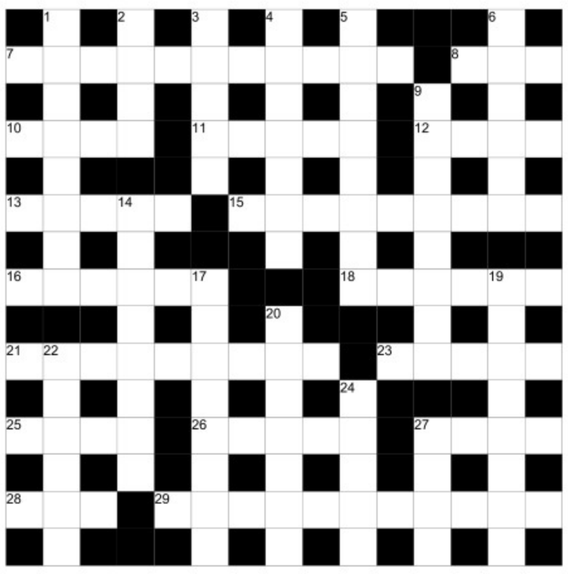
The crash killed 270 people, including 241 on board. One passenger survived.

TH CROSSWORD + 14518

(set by Hypatia)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

7 Modern AI trial unit's practical (11)
8 Socialise after captain of Mumbai team retired (3)
10 Bragged in party (4)
11 Middle Easterners re-building Basra (5)
12 Attacks fools (4)
13 River Seine, extremely hot earlier to bathe (5)
15 Fancy clothes in wash - rest mostly dirty (9)
16 Invites him later to tour capital city (6)
18 Colourful bird or two on air before May (6)
21 A rich child's booster seat (4-5)
23 Leaders of huge empires inheriting remarkable status! (5)
25 Women passing through never sent back in Sabarimala, say (4)
26 Perfect old performance (5)
27 Incomplete cipher requiring a final part (4)
28 Oddly join with girl to dance (3)
29 Reserved match, pointed Spooner (5-6)

Down

1 Sea creature's prominent angle (8)
2 Reflection of animal in stream (4)
3 Ultimately unfinished country album? (5)
4 Infuse exotic herb tea (7)
5 Language without writing tools, pens (8)
6 Antelope seen in his log cabin regularly (6)
9 Young author's unpopular, discontented, boring friend (8)
14 Recalled why no HP mystery features a musical composition (8)
17 Allow sharing chat - one unusually active (8)
19 A newly wed daughter securing *ghunghat* initially clipped (8)
20 Basic test about state leading to arrest killer (7)
22 Working in ICICI? Most famous! (6)
24 Looted from shop changing hands (5)
27 Initially cut or paste your transcript (4)

SUDOKU

		2		8		3		
9			6				5	
6			4			9	2	
5		4						
	7						1	
						6		3
	6	9			2			5
	4				7			6
		1		5		7		

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	3	6	1	7	8	4	5	9
1	9	4	5	3	6	7	2	8
7	8	5	4	9	2	6	1	3
6	4	2	8	1	7	9	3	5
8	1	3	9	6	5	2	7	4
9	5	7	3	2	4	8	6	1
3	2	1	7	8	9	5	4	6
5	7	8	6	4	1	3	9	2
4	6	9	2	5	3	1	8	7

FAITH

Reduce mental chatter

The mind is a relentless stream of thoughts, continuously wandering and jumping from one idea to another. To achieve spiritual growth and inner peace, it is essential to curtail this wandering mind. Mind-body alignment (MBA), a crucial aspect of spiritual practice, requires being present in the moment, aligning one's thoughts and actions, said Swami Mitranandaji.

According to psychiatry, the mind generates approximately 60,000 thoughts daily. Reducing this mental chatter is vital for mental clarity and focus. Lord Krishna's advice in the Bhagavad Gota, (Chapter VI, verse 26), offers a practical solution: *yato yato nishcharati manash chanchalam asthiam tatas tato niyamyaitad atmanyeva vasham nayet*. Whenever the mind wanders, bring it back and focus it on the goal. To practice this, one must incorporate mindfulness into daily activities. Perform everyday tasks such as brushing teeth, drinking water or tying shoelaces with conscious awareness. By doing so, you will bring your mind and body into alignment, reducing mental distractions. To achieve this, one should start with a list of 10 daily activities, doing each one mindfully. As one cultivate this habit, one will find one's mind becoming more focused and calm.

By following Krishna's advice and practising mindfulness, one can quiet the ever-churning mind and achieve a state of inner peace. Regular practice will help one stay in the present, reducing wanderings of the mind and increasing mental clarity. When one masters this technique, one will find oneself better equipped in life and reap the benefits of a more focused, calm and peaceful mind.

Rates and the right debt fund

Santosh Agarwal

Fixed deposit (FC) rates registered a steady dip ever since the MPC started rate-easing cycle at its February meet. The latest 50 bps cut in repo rate and easing liquidity conditions should lead banks to cut FD rates more. This may push fixed income investors towards debt mutual funds to benefit from easing rate cycles. However, with over 300 debt funds and 16 categories, wrong fund choice may lead to sub-optimal returns/capital loss. Here are some key factors to help make informed decisions on debt funds.

Current cycle
Interest rate cycles play a major role in the price movement of bonds and other fixed income securities. Prices of securities such as bonds have an inverse relationship with direction and quantum of interest rate changes. Their prices rise during falling rate regime as coupon rates would be higher than those of similarly rated but freshly-issued debt securities. Conversely, rising interest rate regimes lead the prices of existing debt securities to fall as investors would prefer investing in newly-issued securities offering higher coupon rates. Thus, debt mutual funds (MFs) generate higher returns during falling interest rate regime and vice versa.

The next step involves selecting the right debt fund category, factoring in risk appetite and the time horizon of financial goals. SEBI's circular on MF categorisation can help investors in selecting right fund category.

For example, the latest change in the monetary policy stance to neutral reduced the prospect of further rate hikes in the immediate future. Thus, investors must prefer funds pursuing accrual-oriented strategy like money market funds, ultra-short, low- and short-duration funds, etc. Investors can also opt for dynamic bond funds as these carry flexibility to change investment strategy as per changes in the interest rate cycle. Once identified, check the following metrics to choose the right fund.

Maturity, duration
Average maturity of a MF is the weighted average of maturities of various fixed income instruments held in its portfolio. Modified duration is the sensitivity of its portfolio to interest rate fluctuations. So, if the modified duration of a debt fund is 5%, then NAV of the fund should rise by 5% for every 1% reduction in interest rate. Thus, debt funds with higher average maturity and modified duration are more sensitive to interest rate changes. This leads debt funds with higher average maturity and higher modified duration to perform well during easing rate cycles.

Expense ratio
Expense ratio of a MF is percentage of total assets used to cover operating expenses. This is important when selecting debt funds, especially in liquid, ultra-short and low duration categories, as these have limited upside potential compared with equity, credit risk and debt funds of longer duration. Thus, pick direct plans of debt funds as they have lower expense ratios than regular plans.

Yield to Maturity (YTM)
Debt fund fact sheets, published monthly, show portfolio constituents' credit ratings and creditworthiness of the fixed income issuers. Reviewing these would provide a fair idea about the credit risk exposure of debt funds.

YTM of a MF indicates the weighted average yield of portfolio components in terms of percentage. This is a rough estimate of potential interest income a debt fund can deliver if its portfolio holdings are held till maturity. A higher YTM can also indicate greater credit risk profile of fund as fixed income instruments with lower credit ratings usually offer higher yields. Also, YTM of a MF shown at the time of investment may not match actual returns due to factors like subsequent portfolio churnings. While comparing debt funds, always consider net YTM, i.e. gross YTM minus expense ratio.

(The writer is CEO of Paisabazaar)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.

ARTIST SAAI

Burning at both ends: how smoking hits health, raises term insurance premium

According to the World Health Organization, smoking is responsible for more than eight million deaths worldwide each year, including approximately 1.35 million deaths annually in India

EXPENSIVE HABIT

Varun Agarwal

American actress and singer Liza Minnelli once quipped, "Smoking is one of the leading causes of statistics." As witty as it sounds, the grim truth is hard to ignore, tobacco use remains one of the top causes of preventable death globally.

According to the World Health Organization, it is responsible for more than eight million deaths worldwide each year, including approximately 1.35 million deaths annually in India.

The health consequences of smoking are well documented. From lung cancer and cardiovascular disease to stroke and chronic respiratory issues, tobacco use leads to severe, often irreversible, damage. But what's less discussed is the financial burden it can bring, particularly when it comes to term life insurance.

Why smokers pay more
When you apply for a term insurance plan, one of the first things insurers assess is your smoking status. And the difference in premium can be staggering. For instance, a 35-year-old male living in Delhi could pay as much as 80-100% more for the same term plan if he is a smoker compared with a non-smoker.

> Premium can be significantly higher. A 35-year-old male in Delhi could pay 80–100% more for the same term plan if he is a smoker vs. a non-smoker

For instance, a 35-year-old non-smoker will pay a monthly premium of ₹1,453 for a ₹1 crore term policy, while a smoker will pay about ₹2,905.

That's because smoking significantly reduces life expectancy, increasing the risk for insurers.

Life-threatening issues
Smokers are more prone to a host of life-threatening conditions, including various cancers, heart disease, and chronic respiratory ailments.

This elevated risk translates into higher premiums, as insurers factor in the likelihood of early claims.

Smoking habits outweigh job risk in premium assessment. While your profession also plays a role in determining your insurance premium, smoking is often a more critical factor. For example, a smoker working a low-risk job like a software engineer may still end up paying a higher premium than a non-smoker in a high-risk occupation, such as a construction worker or merchant navy officer. Insurers typically categorise applicants into two groups, smokers and non-smokers, regardless of other lifestyle or occupational risks.

> There's a misconception smokers are ineligible for term plan. That's not true. They are eligible and have even more reason to protect families financially

Must buy term plan
There's a common misconception that smokers are ineligible for term insurance. That's simply not true. Smokers are eligible and, in fact, have even more reason to secure financial protection for their families. Given the elevated health risks, buying term insurance ensures that your loved ones are financially safeguarded in your absence.

Honesty matters
Disclose smoking habits upfront. It's crucial to be transparent about your smoking habits while purchasing a term plan. Non-disclosure or misrepresentation can lead to serious consequences.

If an insurer discovers withheld information, often through mandatory medical exams or tests that detect nicotine, the same may lead to claim rejection, cancellation of the policy, or even allegations of insurance fraud.

Frequent evaluation
Insurers don't just ask whether you smoke, they also evaluate how frequently and in what form you consume tobacco, whether it's cigarettes, cigars, or chewing tobacco.

Definitions of "smoker" also vary across insurance providers. Some classify anyone who has smoked within the last 12 months as a smoker, while others may extend that window to three years.

Try to quit
Also, consider quitting for better rates and better health. If you're considering buying term insurance, quitting smoking can help reduce your premium costs significantly.

Some insurers even offer revised premiums if you quit smoking after purchasing the policy, subject to evidence and re-evaluation over time.

It's an opportune moment to reflect on how quitting smoking can improve not just your health, but also your financial well-being. A single decision, like giving up tobacco, can ripple into long-term benefits for both you and your family.

(The writer is head, term insurance, Policybazaar.com)

REITs right for you?

THINKINVESTOR

Direct investment in land aids capital appreciation whereas investment properties provide rental income; mull REITs as a optimal alternative to rental properties as they can provide stable income

Venkatesh Bangaruswamy

Real estate transactions have been recorded long before financial markets were created. So, individuals have experience in buying and selling real estate well before understanding stocks and bonds. But investing in real estate needs large capital, making it difficult for many to invest directly in properties. Here, we discuss whether REITs (Real Estate Investment Trusts) are an optimal alternative to direct real estate investments.

The trade-offs
There is an emotional satisfaction of owning a physical asset. You can also continually raise rent to keep pace with inflation. The flipside is this investment is lumpy and illiquid. If you are a working executive, investment portability is crucial. This means the ability to move investments when you relocate for work-related reasons. For these reasons, it is worth considering REITs as an alternative to direct real-estate investments.

REITs are like mutual funds that invest only in real estate. They primarily earn rental income and pass on the income to unitholders every year. REITs are required to distribute 90% of the net distributable cash flows (NDCF) to its unitholders at least twice a year; NDCF refers to cash flows after deducting operating expenses and taxes. REITs can, hence, provide stable income to unitholders, assuming they have consistent occupancy rates. Importantly, the investment size in REITs is small. You can buy one unit of a REIT through a trading account. So, REITs convert lumpy illiquid investment into an affordable liquid asset. You must, however, be mindful of two factors before investing. One, REITs are not a direct bet on real estate as they are listed securities. So, they can fall in price when stock markets tank even if rental incomes are consistent or even if there is a robust demand for rental properties. Two, REITs can't provide significant capital appreciation as they cannot significantly expand property portfolio as they distribute 90% of NDCF to unitholders annually.

Conclusion
Direct investment in land helps in generating capital appreciation whereas investment properties primarily provide rental income. You can consider REITs as an optimal alternative to rental properties, as they can provide stable income. Note REITs investing in commercial properties can have higher cash flow volatility than income earned from direct investment in residential properties. That said, before investing, you must analyse the portfolio of properties REITs hold, geographic mix, occupancy rates and past distributions.

(The author offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal investments)

Personal Loans

Rates and Charges		Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 years	Loan amount 1 lakh Tenure 5 years	(% of loan amount)
Name of Lender	**Interest Rate (%)**	**EMI (Rs)**	**EMI (Rs)**	**Processing fee**
HDFC Bank	10.90-24.00	10,846-14,384	2,169-2,877	Up to Rs 6,500
Tata Capital	11.50 onwards	10,996 onwards	2,199 onwards	Up to 4%
State Bank of India	10.30-15.30	10,697-11,974	2,139-2,395	Up to 1.5% (Min. Rs 1,000; Max. Rs 15,000)
ICICI Bank	10.85-16.65	10,834-12,332	2,167-2,466	Up to 2%
Bank of Baroda*	10.40-18.20	10,722-12,751	2,144-2,550	Up to 2% (Max. Rs 10,000)
Axis Bank	10.49-22.00	10,744-13,809	2,149-2,762	Up to 2%
Kotak Mahindra Bank	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 5%
Bank of India	11.60-16.20	11,021-12,212	2,204-2,442	Up to 1% (Min. Rs 250; Max. Rs 15,000)
Canara Bank	9.95-15.40	10,611-12,000	2,122-2,400	Up to 0.25% (Max. Rs 2,500)
Punjab National Bank	10.50-17.05	10,747-12,440	2,149-2,488	Up to 1%
HSBC Bank	10.15-16.00	10,660-12,159	2,132-2,432	Up to 2%
Federal Bank	11.99 onwards	11,120 onwards	2,224 onwards	Up to 3%
Union Bank of India	10.35-14.45	10,710-11,751	2,142-2,350	Up to 1% (Max. Rs 7,500)
Bajaj Finserv	10.00-31.00	10,624-16,485	2,125-3,297	Up to 3.93%
Punjab & Sind Bank	9.85-12.90	10,587-11,351	2,117-2,270	0.50%-1%
Indian Overseas Bank	10.50 onwards	10,747 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 0.75%
UCO Bank	10.20-13.20	10,673-11,428	2,135-2,286	Up to 1% (Min. Rs 750)
IDFC First Bank	9.99 onwards	10,621 onwards	2,124 onwards	2%
Bank of Maharashtra	9.00-13.80	10,379-11,582	2,076-2,316	Up to 1% (Max. Rs 10,000)
Central Bank of India	10.10-11.90	10,648-11,097	2,130-2,219	Up to 1%
IndusInd Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 3.5%

*Interest concession of 0.10% to customers opting for group credit life insurance.

Car Loans

Rates and Charges		Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 years	(% of loan amount)
Name of Lender	**Interest Rate (%)**	**EMI (Rs)**	**Processing fee**
Union Bank of India	7.70-9.45	10,067 - 10,489	Up to Rs 1,000
Punjab National Bank	7.85-9.70	10,102 - 10,550	Up to 0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 1,500)
Bank of Baroda	8.15-11.65	10,174 - 11,034	Up to Rs. 2,000
UCO Bank	7.70-10.00	10,067 - 10,624	0.50% (Rs 5,000)
State Bank of India	9.10-10.15	10,403 - 10,660	Rs 750 - Rs 1,500
IDBI Bank	8.40-9.20	10,234 - 10,428	Rs 2,500
Bank of Maharashtra*	7.70-12.00	10,067 - 11,122	0.25% of loan amount (max. up to Rs. 15,000)
Indian Overseas Bank**	7.80-12.00	10,090 - 11,122	0.50% (Rs 500 - Rs 5,000)
ICICI Bank	9.10 onwards	10,403 onwards	Up to 2%
HDFC Bank	9.20 onwards	10,428 onwards	Up to 1% (Rs 3,500 - Rs 9,000)
Karnataka Bank	9.16-11.64	10,418 - 11,031	Up to 0.60% (Rs 2500 - Rs 11,000)
Federal Bank	10.40 onwards	10,722 onwards	Rs 2,000 - Rs 4,500
Punjab and Sind Bank***	7.75-14.25	10,078 - 11,699	0.25% (Rs 1,000-Rs 15,000)
Indian Bank	7.75-9.85	10,078 - 10,587	Rs. 1000
City Union Bank	14.45-14.95	11,751 - 11,882	1.25% (Min: Rs 750)

*0.25% interest rate concession for existing housing loan borrowers and corporate salary account holders.
**0.50% interest rate concession to borrowers with credit scores of 800 and above. Interest rate concession of 0.25% to borrowers having credit scores of 750-799.
***Concession of up to 50% on processing fee for PSB Apna Vahan Sugam.

Rates and charges as on June 18 **Source: Paisabazaar.com**

WASHINGTON

'Iran may operate power plants, but cannot enrich its own fuel'

AP

The U.S. would allow Iran to operate nuclear power plants but not enrich its own fuel, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on Sunday. "The Iranian regime should wake up and say 'OK, if we really want nuclear energy in our country, there's a way to do it.' That offer's still there, we are prepared to talk to them tomorrow," he said. AFP

KYIV

U.S. strikes on Iran justified to stop nuclear 'threat', says Ukraine

REUTERS

Ukraine said U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iran were justified to prevent Tehran from developing nuclear weapons, praising the military intervention as a "clear signal". "Ukraine is convinced that Iran's nuclear programme must be stopped so that it never again poses a threat to other countries" the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry said. AFP

TEHRAN

U.S. 'no longer' has place in West Asia, says Khamenei's Adviser

GETTY IMAGES

An adviser to Iran's supreme leader said the U.S. "no longer" has a place in West Asia following its strikes against nuclear facilities in the Islamic republic. "Any country in the region or elsewhere that is used by American forces to strike Iran will be considered a legitimate target for our armed forces," said Ali Akbar Velayati. AFP

NEW YORK

UN Security Council set to meet over U.S. bomb strikes on Iran

REUTERS

The United Nations Security Council was scheduled to meet on Sunday, diplomats said, after the United States joined Israel's assault on Iran. Iran requested the meeting, calling on the 15-member body "to address this blatant and unlawful act of aggression, to condemn it in the strongest possible terms." REUTERS

Iranian missiles fired in the wake of U.S. strikes cause damage in Tel Aviv

Iran launched more than 40 missiles toward Israel on Sunday morning, injuring 23 people and destroying apartment buildings and homes in three cities; Israel strikes dozens of targets in the Islamic nation including in Bushehr and Yazd

Associated Press
TEL AVIV

Hours after the U.S. struck three Iranian nuclear sites, Iran launched more than 40 missiles toward Israel on Sunday, wounding 23 people and destroying apartment buildings and homes in three cities.

At an impact site in Tel Aviv, the blast had sheared off the face of a multistory residential building and damaged several others – including a nursing home – in a radius of hundreds of metres. But only a few people were wounded, as many residents had been evacuated and others made it to bomb shelters.

Damage control: Emergency responders gather outside a building at the site of an Iranian strike in in Tel Aviv on Sunday. GETTY IMAGES

Deputy Mayor Haim Goren, who assisted at the scene, said it was nevertheless "miraculous" that more people were not hurt. Relatives and health aides helped residents – many with wheelchairs or walkers – to leave the nursing home, where windows were blown out up to the top on the 11th floor.

Meanwhile, the Israeli military said its fighter jets had struck "dozens" of targets across Iran on Sunday, including a long-range missile site in Yazd in the centre of the country for the first time.

A statement said that "approximately 30 IAF (air force) fighter jets struck dozens of military targets throughout Iran" – including "the 'Imam Hussein' Strategic Missile Command Center in the Yazd area'.

The statement also confirmed strikes on missile launchers in Bushehr province, where a "massive explosion" was reported by Iranian media on Sunday, as well as in Ahvaz in the southwest and central Isfahan.

Isfahan is home to a uranium conversion facility targeted by more than two dozen missiles fired from a U.S. submarine in West Asia overnight.

Meanwhile, Iran's Health Ministry acknowledged Sunday that U.S. strikes on the country's nuclear facilities had wounded an unspecified number of people, but none "showed any signs of radioactive contamination" after seeking treatment.

Russia, China, UN chief slam act of 'escalation' by the U.S.

Agence France-Presse

China's Foreign Ministry said on Sunday it "strongly condemns" U.S. strikes on Iran's nuclear sites, adding that they "escalate tensions in the Middle East [West Asia]".

"China calls on all parties to the conflict, especially Israel, to cease fire as soon as possible," the ministry said in a statement.

Russia too chimed in saying that it "strongly condemned" the United States's bombings of nuclear sites in Iran, calling the attacks "irresponsible" and a "gross violation of international law".

"It is already clear that a dangerous escalation has begun, fraught with further undermining of regional and global security," the Russian Foreign Ministry added in a statement.

Wake-up call: Shia Muslims in Pakistan take part in a rally to condemn Israeli strikes on Iran in Karachi on Sunday. AP

Separately, Dmitry Medvedev, who serves as deputy head of President Vladimir Putin's Security Council, said several countries were prepared to supply Tehran with nuclear weapons.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said he was "gravely alarmed" by the use of force by the United States.

"There is a growing risk that this conflict could rapidly get out of control – with catastrophic consequences for civilians, the region, and the world," he said."

At least 20 killed in Damascus church blast

Agence France-Presse
DAMASCUS

At least 20 persons were killed and 52 wounded when a suicide bomber blew himself up at the Mar Elias Church in the Dweila neighbourhood of Syria's capital Damascus on Sunday, security sources said.

The incident marks the first suicide bombing inside Damascus since Bashar al-Assad was toppled by an Islamist-led rebel insurgency in December.

Syria's interior ministry said the suicide bomber was a member of the Islamic State.

Bangladesh's BNP files case on alleged election rigging

Agence France-Presse
DHAKA

Bangladesh's leading political party filed a case on Sunday against former election commissioners it accuses of rigging past polls to keep now-ousted leader Sheikh Hasina in power.

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) said it had lodged a complaint against 19 people including Ms. Hasina, who fled in August following weeks of protest against her rule.

"We have brought allegations of violating the constitution, breaching the electoral code of conduct, assisting a political party to win despite holding government positions, unleashing a reign of terror, and falsely declaring candidates as winners despite their failure to secure enough votes," Salauddin Khan, a senior BNP leader, told reporters.

The BNP claimed Ms. Hasina's election wins in 2014, 2018 and 2024 were achieved through repressive actions against opposition parties. Among those named in its case lodged at a Dhaka police station are three former top election commissioners.

On the draw

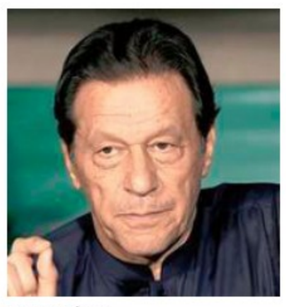
MIKA AZIZ

Senior leaders of Imran's PTI get relief from Pakistan courts

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD/LAHORE

Several senior leaders of jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan's party were granted relief by courts in protest-related cases. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders, including its chairman Gohar Ali Khan and Leader of the Opposition Omar Ayub, were on Saturday acquitted by a court in Islamabad in two protest-related cases from last year, the *Dawn* reported.

Islamabad Judicial Magistrate Shahzad Ahmed announced the verdict in the cases related to a protest on April 26 last year.



Imran Khan

Meanwhile, an anti-terrorism court in Lahore granted bail to former Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi in a May 9, 2023, riots case.

Sport

Raja, Vinod impress with new meet records

ATHLETICS

Sports Bureau

Tamil Nadu's Kavin Raja set a new meet record with a 5.11m jump to take gold in the pole vault on the opening day of the 23rd National junior Federation Cup athletics championships at the Madan Mohan Malviya Sports Stadium, Prayagraj, on Sunday.

Also setting a new meet record was Vinod Singh in the 3000m with a timing of 8:14.22.

In fact, the top-eight finishers in the event all managed to better the previous best mark, set by Ajay in 2021.

Himanshu and Nipam set their personal best timings en route to winning the men's and women's 100m dash respectively while South Asian U-20 champion Anisha added the discus throw gold (49.62m) to her growing medal collection.

The results (winners only):
Men: 100m: Himanshu (Har, 10.49s); **3000m:** Vinod Singh (MP, 8:14.22); **Pole vault:** Kavin Raja (TN, 5.11m).
Women: 100m: Nipam (UP, 11.86s), **3000m:** Sanjana Singh (Har, 9:51.77), **Discus throw:** Anisha (Har, 49.62m).

LIVE TELECAST

Football: Club World Cup, DAZN, 6.30 a.m. (Monday); 12.30 a.m. & 3.30 a.m. (Tuesday)
England vs India: 1st Test, day 4, Sony Sports Ten 1, 5 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 3.30 p.m.
TNPL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & FanCode, 7.15 p.m.

Easy start for Chawla and Pushpender

Press Trust of India
COLOMBO

Kamal Chawla and Pushpender Singh scored facile wins on the opening day of the ACBS Asian 6-red snooker championship here on Sunday.

Chawlas scored a 4-1 (42-5, 80(66)-0, 67(67)-0, 0-44(40), 49-7) win over Wai Ip Lam of Macao China in Group C, while Pushpender Singh got the better of Bangladesh's Ziaur Rahman Azad 4-1 (49-23, 40-16, 1-40, 47-33, 56 (36)-0) in Group A.

In another match, National champion Paras Gupta prevailed 4-3 4-3 (20-52, 42(37)-5, 47-17, 46-34, 25-36, 13-36, 28-25) over Mohamed Mubeen in a Group D clash.

Sovereign King lives up to the billing in Colts Championship

BENGALURU: Adhiraj Singh Jodha-trained Sovereign King (Antony up) won the Zavaray S. Poonawalla Colts Championship Stakes (1,600m), the chief event of the races held here on Sunday (June 22). The winner is owned by Mr. Sudendu Shah, Mrs. Preeti C. Shah, Mrs. Hiral Shah, Dr. Rahul Shah, Mr. K.M. Shah, Mrs. Vanita K. Shah, Mr. Chaitanya Shah, Mr. Vinod M. Mathurawala & Mrs. Pooja S. Shah.

Antony confidently kept the gutsy colt in mid-bunch till the bend before manoeuvring the home stretch. Sovereign King responded tremendously to the reminders and galloped with giant strides to pip the leader Stormy Sea at the post.

Champion outfit: Sovereign King (Antony) being led by, from left, owners Tanmay Mathurawala, Chaitanya Shah, K.M. Shah, Sudendu Shah, breeder Gurpal Singh, trainer Adhiraj Singh Jodha, breeder Angad Singh, and owner Vinod Mathurawala. K. MURALI KUMAR

THE RESULTS:

1. GUINDY PLATE (1,200M): MYSTIC CHARM (Md. Akram) 1, Slice Of Luck (R. Pradeep) 2, Satin Lass (Trevor) 3 and N R I Jetpower (Aleemuddin) 4. 3/4, Nose and 4. 1m, 13.59s. ₹78 (w), 21, 46 and 11 (p), SHP: 112, THP: 74, FP: 922, Q: 845, Trinella: 1,724/539, Exacta: 7,979/23,938. Favourite: Satin Lass. Owner: Mr. H.S. Chandre Gowda. Trainer: M. Rajendra Singh.

2. PRONTO PRONTO PLATE (1,600M): KISS OF GREY (Yash) 1, Cicar Galaxy (L.A. Rozario) 2, Andre' (Sandesh) 3 and Einaudi (Trevor) 4. Not run: Knight Regent. 1-1/4, 1-1/2 and Nose. 1m, 39.79s. ₹72 (w), 14, 13 and 11 (p), SHP: 30, THP: 44, FP: 275, Q: 123, Trinella: 386/174, Exacta: 812/329. Favourite: Andre'. Owners: M/s. Rapar Galloping Stars LLP, Mr. B.P. Devaraja, Mr. Teja Gollapudi & Dr. Prabhakar Chowdary Tripuraneni. Trainer: S. Narredu.

3. BERGAMO PLATE (DIV. II), (1,100M): GLORIOUS SPECTRE (Dhanu S) 1, Felisa (Pavan) 2, Noble Cause (Trevor) 3 and She's So Beautiful (Likith Appu) 4. Shd, 4-1/2 and Hd. 1m, 07.05s. ₹42 (w), 17, 15 and 14 (p), SHP: 44, THP: 67, FP: 284, Q: 187, Trinella: 581/220, Exacta: 33,990. Favourite: Noble Cause. Owners: Mr. Sujay Kumar Puttanna, Mr. Balam Mohla & Mr. Dean Stephens'. Trainer: Neil Devaney.

4. NOBLE PRINCE PLATE (1,800M): GALWAY GIRL (Vishal Bunde) 1, Art Of Romance (Trevor) 2, Monterio (G. Vivek) 3 and Stentorian (Suraj) 4. 1-1/2, 3-1/4 and 1/2. 1m 52.55s. ₹222 (w), 31, 14 and 14 (p), SHP: 35, THP: 48, FP: 822, Q: 368, Trinella: 1,791/608, Exacta: 5,462/3,010. Favourite: Monterio. Owners: Mr. Enrico R. Piperno, Mr. S.K. Shingal, Ashok Kumar Agarwal, Mr. Lalit Baid, Mr. Bishwajit Sinha Roy, Mr. Vivek Choudhary, M/s. Speedex Livestock Pvt Ltd rep. by Mr. Sharath Jhunjhunwala, Mr. Shawney & Mr. Rajesh Kabra. Trainer: Neil Darashah.

5. CIVIL SERVICE CUP (2,000M): GOLDEN THUNDER (Antony) 1, Arkadian (S. Saqlain) 2, Cafe Wickham (C. Umesh) 3 and Eagle Day (G. Vivek) 4. 3/4, 2-1/4 and 1-1/4. 2m, 05.51s. ₹90 (w), 23, 15 and 63 (p), SHP: 43, THP: 131, FP: 321, Q: 138, Trinella: 9,777/4,190, Exacta: 19,686/3,615. Favourite: Arkadian. Owner: M/s. Arun Alagappan Racing LLP rep. by Mr. Arun Alagappan. Trainer: Karthik Ganapathy.

6. ZAVARAY S. POONAWALLA COLTS CHAMPIONSHIP STAKES (1,600M): SOVEREIGN KING (TOP CLASS-STARLET) ANTONY 1, Stormy Sea (Dreamfield-Anjeze) N.S. Parmar 2, Red Bishop (Kingda Ka-Solar Midnight) Trevor 3 and Prokofiev (Leitir Mor-Balmoral Castle) Mukesh K 4. Nk, Nose and Hd. 1m, 36.75s. ₹34 (w), 16, 56 and 21 (p), SHP: 159, THP: 74, FP: 740, Q: 506, Trinella: 7,226/1,204, Exacta: 18,000/7,714. Favourite: Sovereign King. Owners: Mr. Sudendu Shah, Mrs. Preeti C. Shah, Mrs. Hiral Shah, Dr. Rahul Shah, Mr. K.M. Shah, Mrs. Vanita K. Shah, Mr. Chaitanya Shah, Mr. Vinod M. Mathurawala & Mrs. Pooja S. Shah. Trainer: Adhiraj Singh Jodha.

7. BERGAMO PLATE (DIV. I), (1,100M): DEFENCE COUNSEL (Trevor) 1, Springsteen (Aleemuddin) 2, Flash (Darshan N) 3 and Eclipse Pulse (Akshay K) 4. 1-1/4, Snk and 1/2. 1m, 06.78s. ₹28 (w), 15, 26 and 23 (p), SHP: 80, THP: 49, FP: 267, Q: 221, Trinella: 2,745/686, Exacta: 7,341/4,045. Favourite: Defence Counsel. Owner: Mr. M. Venkatesh. Trainer: S. Dominic.

8. BORSALINO PLATE (1,600M): ROCK BANK (Akshay K) 1, Live The Dream (Mustakim Alam) 2, Inspire (Antony) 3 and Storm Shadow (G. Vivek) 4. 3/4, Snk and Lnk. 1m, 37.32s. ₹20 (w), 14, 26 and 23 (p), SHP: 76, THP: 61, FP: 216, Q: 152, Trinella: 1,108/446, Exacta: 2,839/851. Favourite: Rock Bank. Owners: Mr. K. Kaliyaperumal, Mr. Ashok Ranpise & Mr Meka Yugandhar. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

Jackpot: ₹1,37,574 (five tkts.); Runner-up: 36,850 (eight tkts.).

Treble (i): 15,670 (carried over); (ii): 261 (137 tkts).

TOP STUFF

Bumrah now has the most five-fors by an Indian in the Old Blighty

GETTY IMAGES

Pacer Jasprit Bumrah broke the record for most five-wicket hauls by an Indian bowler in England in Test cricket. Bumrah claimed a five-for in the Leeds Test, pushing his tally to three in the Old Blighty. He went past a list that included Kapil Dev and B.S. Chandrasekhar. It was also Bumrah's 12th five-for away from home.

CREDITABLE EFFORT

India did well to score 471 in first innings, feels batting coach Kotak

PTI

After threatening to score in excess of 600, India folded for 471 in its first innings. But batting coach Sitanshu Kotak felt it was still creditable. "After 430 for three you expect a big score. But after losing the toss it was very good. [At] Headingley, normally on day one, a lot of wickets fall. So I think we batted well."

BIG BOOST

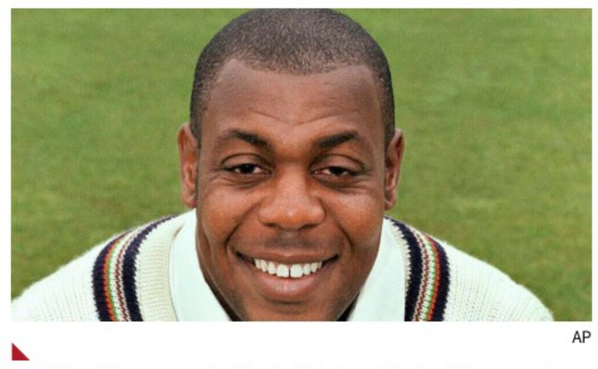
Archer could return for second Test against India, says report

FILE PHOTO

England pacer Jofra Archer could be back for the second Test against India beginning on July 2 as he made a red-ball comeback with Sussex at Durham in the County Championship on Sunday. "If he comes through the match unscathed, he could be in the mix to play at Edgbaston," said a report in *Sky Sports*.

TRAILBLAZER

Former England cricketer Lawrence passes away



AP

David 'Syd' Lawrence, the first British-born Black cricketer to play for England, has passed away aged 61. Lawrence's family made the announcement on Sunday through Gloucestershire, where Lawrence was the club president. He played five Tests for England from 1988-92, taking 18 wickets.

Headingley Test hangs in the balance

India stretches the lead to 96 at close on the third day with eight wickets in hand; Bumrah claims a five-for while Brook misses a maiden century on his home ground; Prasidh scalps three but goes for plenty; Siraj alternates between the good and ordinary; shoddy fielding hurts the tourists

INDIA IN ENGLAND

N. Sudarshan
LEEDS

Big strikes: Brook fell to Prasidh one short of his ninth Test hundred, while Woakes' promising knock was cut short by a Bumrah special. GETTY IMAGES, REUTERS

Trying to get near a 471-run first-innings total would have been a steep climb for most sides.

But so emphatically did England turn the tables on India, that for most part of day three of the first Test here in Headingley, it was the visitors – despite a rejuvenating, cool breeze blowing across the ground – who resembled a pack of tired cyclists staring at a hulking mountain.

England, from an overnight 209 for three, fought India to a standstill, ending its first essay just six runs adrift. For the remaining two days, the forecast is for grey skies. That means India has to bat well, both for time and runs.

By close on Sunday, India showed the stomach for a fight by reaching 90 for two, propelled by a silken K.L. Rahul knock (47 batting, 75b, 7x4). The opening session on Monday may well decide who cracks open the contest.

If Harry Brook (99, 112b, 11x4, 2x6) and Jamie Smith (40, 52b, 5x4, 1x6) had been more game aware, England could have really hurt India. Both batters fell to the short-ball ploy from Prasidh Krishna by getting caught in the deep.

Jasprit Bumrah got a deserved fifer (24.4-5-83-5), but by the time the 31-year-old earned his fourth and fifth wickets, England had already reached 460. It was a day of purposeless bowling and suffering as Prasidh ended up leaking 128 runs from his 20 overs and Mohammed Siraj alternated between good and ordinary spells.

So bereft of ideas was India that Shubman Gill stationed four men in the deep and tried to bounce out Brydon Carse, no mug with the bat but still a No. 9. Carse (22, 23b, 4x4) and Chris Woakes (38, 55b, 3x4, 2x6) combined for 55 eighth-wicket runs, a partnership that gave the hosts a significant tailwind.

Yorkshire's Brook could have had his ninth Test ton and first at his home stadium, but couldn't capitalise despite being reprieved twice. On 46, Rishabh Pant failed to latch on to a tough chance off Ravindra Jadeja. Then, on 82 , Yashasvi Jaiswal grassed him, this time at gully off an unlucky Bumrah.

But for those chances, and the moment of dull decision-making that led to his dismissal, Brook was assured. A dance down the track to Bumrah for a searing square-driven boundary was his statement shot.

The 26-year-old made his intentions clear quite early, cutting Prasidh for a four and launching him over mid-wicket in the first over of play. Siraj wasn't spared either, driven straight down and hit over the infield for multiple boundaries.

Second-day centurion Ollie Pope's walk back to the pavilion in the third over of the day and Ben Stokes' retreat after a promising 51-run partnership did nothing to break Brook's momentum. He moved into the 90s by clubbing Siraj for a six over long-on before a beautifully steered four to the point fence got him to 97.

But when on 99, the ill-judged choice to hook Prasidh rather than tap the ball down for a single put paid to his century hopes. The English tail, however, wagged, much to the tourists' annoyance.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA — 1ST INNINGS
471 in 113 overs.

ENGLAND — 1ST INNINGS
Zak Crawley c Karun b Bumrah 4 *(6b, 1x4)*, Ben Duckett b Bumrah 62 *(94b, 9x4)*, Ollie Pope c Pant b Prasidh 106 *(137b, 14x4)*, Joe Root c Karun b Bumrah 28 *(58b, 2x4)*, Harry Brook c Shardul b Prasidh 99 *(112b, 11x4, 2x6)*, Ben Stokes c Pant b Siraj 20 *(52b, 3x4)*, Jamie Smith c Sai Sudharsan b Prasidh 40 *(52b, 5x4, 1x6)*, Chris Woakes b Bumrah 38 *(55b, 3x4, 2x6)*, Brydon Carse b Siraj 22 *(23b, 4x4)*, Josh Tongue b Bumrah 11 *(18b, 2x4)*, Shoaib Bashir (not out) 1 *(4b)*; Extras (b-8, lb-18, nb-7, w-1): 34; Total (in 100.4 overs): 465.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-4 (Crawley, 0.6 overs), 2-126 (Duckett, 28.3), 3-206 (Root, 46.3), 4-225 (Pope, 51.1), 5-276 (Stokes, 64.5), 6-349 (Smith, 79.3), 7-398 (Brook, 87.3), 8-453 (Carse, 94.5), 9-460 (Woakes, 98.5).

INDIA BOWLING
Bumrah 24.4-5-83-5, Siraj 27-0-122-2, Prasidh 20-0-128-3, Jadeja 23-4-68-0, Shardul 6-0-38-0.

INDIA — 2ND INNINGS
Yashasvi Jaiswal c Smith b Carse 4 *(11b, 1x4)*, K.L. Rahul (batting) 47 *(75b, 7x4)*, B. Sai Sudharsan c Crawley b Stokes 30 *(48b, 4x4)*, Shubman Gill (batting) 6 *(10b, 1x4)*; Extras (lb-1, nb-1, w-1): 3; Total (for two wkts. in 23.5 overs): 90.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-16 (Jaiswal, 3.1), 2-82 (Sai Sudharsan, 20.5).

ENGLAND BOWLING
Woakes 6-2-18-0, Carse 5-0-27-1, Tongue 5-0-15-0, Bashir 2.5-1-11-0, Stokes 5-1-18-1.

Shining star: Despite his teammates grassing three chances, Bumrah registered his 14th five-wicket haul. REUTERS

'It was once said I can't play cricket at all'

N. Sudarshan
LEEDS

In a parallel world, Jasprit Bumrah could have had more than the five wickets he ended up with in England's first innings here, and that too in double quick time.

But a disastrous fielding display by his teammates - they dropped three catches off his bowling - and some rotten luck - he dismissed Harry Brook off a no-ball when on nought - ensured India was on the field for far longer than desired. But Bumrah was empathetic towards his fielders.

"You have to move forward," he said on Sunday. "I try to quickly forget. They [fielders] are also new [to England] and sometimes the ball is tough to sight. I don't want to be angry and kicking and putting more pressure."

Bumrah also stated that the wicket was still good to bat. "There is a little bit of two-pace and the new ball might swing. But no demons. It's a fast scoring ground. So the more runs we get, the better."

By his own admission, the 31-year-old is not looking to play more than three Tests this series for better management of his workload.

But the potential limited participation doesn't affect his thinking and preparation, he said.

"You don't look at what is going to happen. At this moment, I am trying to assess the wicket, and the batter. I am not thinking about how many games I am going to play."

The constant chatter about his career ending because of injuries also doesn't bother him.

"It was once said that I can't play cricket at all. Then it became six months, eight months. But it's been more than 10 years now in internationals and 12 to 13 years of IPL. Still people are saying 'I will go'. People can keep saying, but I am going nowhere. I will keep playing until god allows me to and try taking Indian cricket forward."

Powerful strike: Yildiz lets fly for Juventus' second. REUTERS

Yildiz brace powers Juventus to big win

CLUB WORLD CUP

Agence France-Presse
PHILADELPHIA

Kenan Yildiz scored two goals and had a hand in another as Juventus beat Wydad Casablanca 4-1 at the Club World Cup on Sunday to close in on a place in the last 16.

The Turkish international forward was unlucky not to be credited with Juve's early opener which went down as an own goal by Abdelmounaim Boutouil.

Thembinkosi Lorch pulled one back for Wydad before the break, before a late Dusan Vlahovic penalty sealed the victory for the Italian side.

The results:

On Sunday: Group G: Juventus 4 (Boutouil 6-og, Yildiz 16, 69, Vlahovic 90+4-pen) bt Wydad Casablanca 1 (Lorch 25).

On Saturday: Group E: Inter Milan 2 (Martinez 78, Carboni 90+2) bt Urawa Red Diamonds 1 (Watanabe 11); River Plate 0 drew with Monterrey 0.

Group F: Fluminense 4 (Arias 27, Nonato 66, Freytes 83, Keno 90+2) bt Ulsan HD 2 (Lee Jin-hyun 37, Um Won-sang 45-3).

Rohit shatters India best time en route 100m butterfly gold

AQUATICS

Y.B. Sarangi
BHUBANESWAR

Double delight: Apart from the record, Rohit also achieved 'B' qualification time for the World championships. BISWARANJAN ROUT

Armed with a new-found mental strength, B. Benediction Rohit set a India best time on his way to claim the men's 100m butterfly gold on the opening day of the National aquatics championships on Sunday.

Rohit, who was born with a broken right thigh bone and took to swimming for physical fitness, clocked 52.50s to erase Virdhawal Khade's India best mark of 52.79 and co-competitor Sajan Prakash's four-year-old meet record of 53.24. Sajan finished second with 53.51.

"I focused on my own race. Overthinking and the pressure of competition have affected my performances in the past. My coach Nihar Ameen worked on the mental side of my game," said Rohit.

Harshitha Jayram lowered her personal best by nearly three seconds (2:37.72) to win the women's 200m breaststroke.

Bhavya Sachdeva overcame a forgettable performance a year ago to match her personal best (4:26.66) for the 400m freestyle crown. Home favourite Shristi Upadhaya and Astha Choudhury clocked an identical 1:03.50 to share the 100m butterfly gold.

Paris Olympian Dhinidhi Desinghu took the bronze with 1:03.52.

Karnataka, comprising Vihitha Nayana Loganathan, Meenakshi Menon, Trisha Sindhu S. and Dhinidhi, won the women's 4x200m freestyle relay title with a new meet record.

The results (winners only):
Men: 200m freestyle: Aneesh Gowda (Kar) 1:50.85; **200m breaststroke:** Danush Suresh (TN) 2:19.17; **100m butterfly:** B. Benediction Rohit (TN) 52.57 (NMR, Old 53.24, Sajan Prakash, 2021); **4x200m freestyle relay:** Karnataka 7:40.90.
Women: 400m freestyle: Bhavya Sachdeva (Del) 4:26.66; **200m breaststroke:** Harshitha Jayaram (RSPB) 2:37.72; **100m butterfly:** Shristi Upadhaya (Odi) and Astha Choudhury (RSPB) 1:03.50; **4x200m freestyle relay:** Karnataka 8:52.32 (NMR, Old 8:53.83, Maharashtra, 2012).

Indian men end losing streak; women go down again

FIH PRO LEAGUE

Press Trust of India
ANTWERP

The Indian men's hockey team edged past Belgium 4-3 to register its first win in the European leg of FIH Pro League here on Sunday, ending a run of seven successive losses.

With the scores tied 3-3, Harmanpreet Singh converted a penalty stroke to seal the issue in the 59th minute.

The Indian women went down 0-2 to Belgium for their sixth successive defeat and inched closer to relegation.

The results: Men: Belgium 3 (Arthur de Sloover 8, Thibeau Stockbroekx 34, Hugo Labouchere 41) lost to India 4 (Sukhjeet Singh 21, 35, Amit Rohidas 36, Harmanpreet Singh 59).

Women: Belgium 2 (Ambre Ballenghie 40, Lien Hillewaert 43) bt India 0.

Very difficult to pick Bumrah: Duckett

N. Sudarshan
LEEDS

Timber! Duckett chops one off Bumrah's bowling. AP

One of many ways to gauge the effectiveness of a bowler is to ascertain how much the opposition worries about him.

Ben Stokes, in the lead-up to the first Test here, may have declared that he did not fear Jasprit Bumrah, but England opener Ben Duckett laid bare the trepidation that came with facing the maverick pacer.

"He's the best bowler in the world," Duckett said of Bumrah. "He's good in any conditions, and when he's coming in down the hill [at Headingley] with the lights on and it's swinging both ways, it's tough."

In a sense, Bumrah got the highest praise – even a side whose identity is to play attacking cricket, buckled down and plotted to see him off. "I didn't really want to target him," Duckett said. "I felt like trying and minimising the damage. I even left a few balls. He is world class."

The southpaw also explained the difference between facing Bumrah and other bowlers. "It starts from how his run-up is. You are waiting and waiting for him to get there. And his ability to bowl three or four different balls with no cue.

"You don't know if he's bowling a bouncer, a slow ball, a yorker, an away-swinger or an inswinger until it comes out of his hand. He has such fast wrists. You've got to watch the ball so hard. It's very difficult to pick him".

INBRIEF

Canada qualifies for the Men's T20 World Cup

The Canadian men's cricket team has qualified for next year's ICC T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka after defeating Bahamas by seven wickets in the Americas Qualifiers at Ontario in Canada. Electing to bowl first, Canada's Kaleem Sana (three for six) and Shivam Sharma (three for 16) bundled out Bahamas in 19.5 overs. Canada achieved the target of 57 in the sixth over. The side led by Nicholas Kirton had started with a 110-run win over Bermuda, which was followed by a 59-run victory against Cayman Islands and a 10-wicket thrashing of Bahamas in the first round of games.

India U-23, Kyrgyz Republic play out a goalless draw

The India U-23 football team played out a goalless draw with Kyrgyz Republic in their second international friendly in Hisor, Tajikistan. The Blue Colts had travelled to Tajikistan to play two friendly matches, the first of which they lost 3-2 against the hosts, as part of their preparations for the AFC under-23 Asian Cup Qualifiers later this year, and the Asian Games in 2026. Kyrgyz Republic looked the livelier of the two teams.

Vijay Sundar-Gornes pair emerges triumphant

It's the 28th career doubles title for the 38-year-old Indian and the second of the season after the one in Pune with Jeevan; Sahaja goes down to American Crawley in Wichita

TENNIS

Sports Bureau

Vijay Sundar Prashanth in partnership with Sergio Gornes beat Alexandru Jecan and Bogdan Pavel 2-6, 7-5, [10-8] in the doubles final of the €145,250 Challenger tennis tournament in Poznan, Poland.

It was the 28th career doubles title for the 38-year-old Vijay Sundar, and the second of the season after the one in Pune with Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan.

For the 30-year-old Gornes, it was the 37th doubles title of his career and the first of the season.

The champion pair collected 100 ATP points and €7,220.

The runner-up pocketed 60 points and €4,180.

In the $30,000 ITF women's event in Wichita, Sahaja Yamalapalli went down in the semifinals to American Fiona Crawley in three sets.

Rewarding outing: Vijay Sundar and Gornes collected 100 ATP points and €7,220. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The results: €145,250 Challenger, Poznan:
Doubles: Final: Sergio Gornes (Esp) & Vijay Sundar Prashanth bt Alexandru Jecan & Bogdan Pavel (Rou) 2-6, 7-5, [10-8].

$30,000 ITF women, Wichita, USA: Semifinals:

Fiona Crawley (USA) bt Sahaja Yamalapalli 3-6, 7-6(3), 6-2.

Aryan Manoj and Sneha are the fastest in the State

Aryan and Sneha. TEJAS RAO

ATHLETICS

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Aryan Manoj (10.34s) and S.S. Sneha (11.52s) won the men's and women's 100m titles respectively in the Karnataka senior athletics meet at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium on Sunday.

Muttappa (59.30m) recorded a meet record in the men's hammer throw.

Mandya athlete C. Varshitha earned a gold medal in the women's long jump and triple jump.

M.R. Poovamma, who represented India in the 2016 Olympics in the women's 4x400m relay, earned a silver medal in the 400m. She was beaten by Vijaya Kumari, who posted a timing of 53.3s.

The results: Winners: Men:
100m: Aryan Manoj 10.34s; **400m:** Balakrishna 47.36s; **800m:** Tushar Bheka 1:50.6s. **1,500m:** Vaibhav Maruthi Patil 3:52.9s; **5,000m:** P. Onkar Rajendra 14:18.72s; **110m hurdles:** M. Krishik 14.27s. **High jump:** Sudeep 2.05m; **400m hurdles:** P. Yashas 51.3s; **Pole vault:** Subash Chandvan 4.60m. **Long jump:** T.R. Anush 7.49m; **Triple jump:** Jesse Sandesh 15.38m; **Shot put:** Ajay Ashok 16.88m. **Hammer throw:** Muttappa 59.30m (NMR, OMR: Sachin, 58.69m, 2024); **Javelin:** Shashank Patil 76.36m.
Women: 100m: S.S. Sneha 11.52s; **400m:** Vijaya Kumari 53.3s; **5,000m:** Thejaswi 18:11.89s. **800m:** P.B. Rekha 2:14.4s; **1,500m:** D.R. Smitha 4:33.1s; **100m hurdles:** Shreeya Rajesh 14.39s. **400m hurdles:** Deekshitha Gowda 1:00.4s; **Long jump:** C. Varshitha 5.91m; **High jump:** Pallavi Patil 1.80m. **Triple jump:** C. Varshitha 12.60m; **Pole vault:** Sindhushree 3.70m; **Hammer throw:** Spruha Raju Naik 46.10m. **Shot put:** V. Ambika 14.20m; **Discus throw:** B. Sushma 41.08m.

Six Indians make it to the finals

BOXING

Press Trust of India
MAHE (SEYCHELLES)

India is assured of several podium finishes with six of its pugilists entering the finals of the Seychelles National Day boxing here.

Aditya Pratap (65kg) impressed with an RSC win in the third round over home favourite Jovanie Bouzin. Neeraj (75kg), too, came up with RSC verdict in the second round.

Himanshu Sharma (50kg) won 4-1 over Mathieu Souprayen of Mauritius. In the 55kg, Ashish Mudshaniya posted an easy 4-1 victory over Guillaume Francis, also from Mauritius. Anmol (60kg) got a 4-1 victory over Dario Gaberiel of Seychelles.

Kartik Dalal (70kg) lost 1-4 to South Africa's Blessing Nziyana while Gaurav Chauhan (90+kg) received a direct entry into the final.

Vondrousova bests qualifier Wang for Berlin Open title

Reuters
BERLIN

Former Wimbledon champion Marketa Vondrousova needed three sets to subdue Chinese qualifier Wang Xinyu 7-6(10), 4-6, 6-2 on Sunday and win the Berlin Open title, completing an improbable run to her first trophy since her London triumph two years ago.

The 25-year-old Czech saved six set points in a tight first set tiebreak.

Other results (finals):

At Halle: Alexander Bublik bt Daniil Medvedev 6-3, 7-6(4).

At London (Queen's Club): Carlos Alcaraz bt Jiri Lehecka 7-5, 6-7(5), 6-2.

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